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Mariners rescued after Air Force crew spots 'SOS' **Page 3**



VIRUS OUTBREAK

Dating app hookups by quarantined couples rile USFJ leader **Page 7**

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Service members face manslaughter charges after brawl in Iraq **Page 5**



Brooks Koepka has rare major three-peat in his sights » Back page

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Isaias makes inland march up East Coast



MATT SLOCUM/AP

A Philadelphia police officer rushes to help a stranded motorist during Tropical Storm Isaias on Tuesday in Philadelphia. The storm spawned tornadoes and dumped rain along the U.S. East Coast after making landfall as a hurricane along the North Carolina coast.

Storm makes landfall in NC as Category 1 hurricane

By GERRY BROOME
AND SARAH BLAKE MORGAN
Associated Press

SOUTHPORT, N.C. — Tropical Storm Isaias spawned tornadoes and dumped rain along the U.S. East Coast on Tuesday after making landfall as a hurricane in North Carolina, where it smashed boats together and caused floods and fires that displaced dozens of people. At least two people were killed when one of its twisters hit a mobile home park.

Nearly 12 hours after coming ashore, Isaias was still

sustaining near-hurricane strength winds of 70 mph Tuesday morning, and its forward march accelerated to 35 mph.

"Potentially life-threatening urban flooding is possible in D.C., Baltimore and elsewhere along and just west of the I-95 corridor today," the National Hurricane Center warned.

Forecasters also issued clear warnings earlier, as Isaias approached land, urging people to heed the danger of life-threatening storm surge

SEE STORM ON PAGE 11



GERRY BROOME/AP

Boats are piled on each other at the Southport Marina following the effects of Hurricane Isaias in Southport, N.C., on Tuesday.

Trump: Fewer than 5K troops in Afghanistan by Election Day

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

President Donald Trump said he expects fewer than 5,000 U.S. troops to be in Afghanistan by November and called America's wars in the Middle East the "biggest mistake" in the country's history during a television interview this week.

"We're largely out of Afghanistan," Trump said in an interview with Axios aired on HBO on Monday. "It's already planned ... We'll be down in a very short period of time to 8,000, then we're gonna be down to 4,000. We're negotiating right now, we've been there for 19 years — 19 years — we'll be getting out."

The U.S. has already withdrawn about a third of its troops, bringing the number to around 8,500, following a peace agreement signed with the Taliban in February that also calls for a full withdrawal by next summer if certain conditions are met, including the Taliban breaking ties with al-Qaida.

The current troop numbers are about what they were when Trump took office in 2017, before numbers ramped up again to about 14,000 under a strategy meant to pressure the militants into peace negotiations.

There will be "probably anywhere from 4,000 to 5,000" troops in Afghanistan by Election Day in November, Trump said in the interview, reported last week. He said it would be 4,000 "very soon," but declined to say when.

The president also boasted that he "took out" ISIS in Iraq and Syria, killed the group's founder Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in Syria last October, and killed Iran's Maj. Gen. Qasim Soleimani in Baghdad this January.

"I've done things that no other president has done," he said. "They should have never been in the Middle East. The decision to

SEE AFGHANISTAN ON PAGE 6

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Sony's profit up as more people playing video games

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese electronics and entertainment company Sony Corp. said Tuesday that its April-June profit jumped 53% as its video game and other online businesses thrived with people staying home due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Tokyo-based Sony reported a \$2.2 billion profit for the last quarter, up from \$1.43 billion the year before.

Sony warned that its movies division would likely suffer for two

or three years due to delays in film projects and limits to theater seating because of the pandemic.

Consumer demand for electronics products has also plunged, including sales of digital cameras, TVs and other gadgets.

Some factories in China and Malaysia were temporarily shut down, and an inability for some employees to travel also was a hindrance, the company said.

Sony's quarterly sales edged up 2% to \$18.6 billion.

Earlier this year, Sony unveiled

a prototype of an electric car, highlighting the reach of consumer electronics into new sectors in the digital age.

The company is projecting a \$4.8 billion profit for the fiscal year ending in March 2021, down 12% from the previous year.

Sony said music streaming was doing well, as people stayed home due to the pandemic, but other parts of its music business have suffered. Online video content is also doing well, it said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates			
Euro costs (Aug. 5)	\$1.15	Switzerland (Franc).....0.9175	
Dollar buys (Aug. 5)	60.8278	Thailand (Baht).....\$1.10	
British pound (Aug. 5)	\$1.28	Turkey (Lira).....6.9683	
Japanese yen (Aug. 5)	103.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
South Korean won (Aug. 5)	1,163.00		
Commercial rates			
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769		
British pound	\$1.3011		
Canada (Dollar)	1.3410		
China (Yuan)	6.9838		
Denmark (Krone)	6.3527		
Egypt (Pound)	15.8886		
Euro	\$1.1724/0.8529		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7502		
Hungary (Forint)	2,000.00		
Indonesia (Rupiah)	2,000.00		
Israel (Shekel)	3.4225		
Japan (Yen)	106.03		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3060		
Norway (Krone)	9.1454		
Philippines (Peso)	49.11		
Poland (Zloty)	3.76		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3776		
South Korea (Won)	1,196.14		

INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.10
3-month bill	0.10
30-year bond	1.24

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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MILITARY

'SOS' helps Air Force crew find castaways

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

An Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker was near the end of its pattern, looking for a missing white and blue skiff and its crew in the western Pacific, when it turned to avoid rough weather and spotted a tiny island.

"That's when we saw 'SOS' and a boat right next to it on the beach," Lt. Col. Jason Palmeira-Yen, the cargo plane's pilot with the Hawaii Air National Guard, said in an Air Force statement.

The plane was dispatched Sunday from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam with a crew of Hawaii and Pennsylvania Air National Guard members to search for three mariners who set out on what should have been about a 25-mile journey from one Micronesian atoll to another, but never arrived at their destination.

They apparently sailed off course and ran out of fuel — the uninhabited island where they were found is about 120 miles from their departure point — said the Australian military, which took part in the rescue along with the U.S. Coast Guard and Federated States of Micronesia.

The stranded sailors had set sail last Thursday, but when they failed to arrive more than a day later, a local notified Joint Rescue Sub-Center Guam that they were missing.

"This case highlights the importance of having a plan and making sure your family knows where you are expected to return," said Capt. Christopher Chase, commander of Coast Guard Sector Guam.

Timely activation of the search and rescue system allowed for a quick response, Chase said in a Coast Guard statement. Watch personnel began coordinating with authorities throughout the region and seeking commercial vessels and others willing to help with the search.

"Once notified, we began immediately working the plan to launch crews to locate the missing vessel," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Shaun McRoberts, 506th Air Expeditionary Aerial Refueling Squadron assistant director



AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE/AP

An Australian Army helicopter lands on Pikelot Island in the Federated States of Micronesia, where three men were found Sunday, safe and healthy after being missing for three days.

of operations in Guam.

Already in the region and steaming back to Australia, the Royal Australian amphibious assault ship HMAS Canberra diverted course and provided search sorties with its embarked helicopters, the Australian military said in a statement.

After sailing overnight to reach the area, the Canberra — also known as a landing helicopter dock — provided an MRH-90 Taiwan helicopter and four attack helicopters that "were instrumental in the morning search," said skipper Capt. Terry Morrison.

The U.S. Air Force crew was flying at 1,500 feet when it spotted the call for help written in the sand on the tiny island of Pikelot, the Air Force said. The coral islet is about 1,800 miles east of the Philippines in the Micronesian state of Yap.

"From there we called in the Australian Navy because they had two helicopters nearby that could assist and land on the island," said Palmeira-Yen.

Australian military photos show an army Tiger attack helicopter on the beach. The crew brought the sailors food and

water, confirmed their identities and checked for injuries, the Australians said.

A U.S. Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules from Air Station Barbers Point in Hawaii airdropped a radio and a message block, letting the sailors know that the patrol boat FSS Independence of the Federated States of Micronesia was coming to bring them home.

The Independence arrived at the island on Monday, launched a small boat crew and rescued the stranded mariners, the Coast Guard said. There were no reported injuries.

In 2016, U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon patrol aircraft helped the Coast Guard locate several stranded sailors in two separate instances after they made "SOS" and "HELP" signs on the beaches of Micronesian islands.

Partnerships played a key role in the success of the latest mission, said Chase, the Coast Guard commander.

"Through coordination ... we were able to save three members of our community and bring them back home to their families."

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Navy investigates video of dogs attacking Kaepernick fill-in

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The U.S. Navy is investigating an incident in which dogs attacked a "Colin Kaepernick stand-in" during a K-9 demonstration during a 2019 fundraiser at the Navy SEAL Museum in Florida.

The Navy said in a statement posted on Twitter that officials became aware of the video on Sunday.

Kaepernick is a former San Francisco 49ers quarterback who began kneeling during the playing of "The Star Spangled Banner" before games to protest social injustice and police brutality. He played his final NFL game in January 2017. He offered support to those protesting the death

of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers in May, and the NFL's commissioner has apologized for not listening earlier to players' concerns about social injustice.

The videos show four dogs attacking a man, who is wearing a red Kaepernick football jersey over heavily padded gear as people stand nearby watching. In a second video, the man is laying on the ground when he's approached by men wearing fa-



Kaepernick

tigues and holding rifles, saying, "On your belly." The man replies, "Oh, man, I will stand," as he rolls over, followed by laughing from the crowd.

The videos were apparently posted on Instagram last year and resurfaced over the weekend.

"The inherent message of this video is completely inconsistent with the values and ethos of Naval Special Warfare and the U.S. Navy," the statement said.

The Navy said the "initial indications" are that no active duty personnel or equipment were used in the demonstration at the "independent organization's event."

The Navy SEAL Museum is located in Fort Pierce, Fla., which is north of West

Palm Beach on the state's Atlantic Coast. According to its website, the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum is the only museum dedicated solely to preserving the history of the U.S. Navy SEALs and their predecessors.

The museum's stated main objective is the promotion of public education, with events for both children and adults. Children between the ages of 10 and 15 were recently given firsthand demonstrations on the care and training of working dogs as part of the museums "Frogman Foundry" program. The museum is not officially connected to the Navy. It was designated as a National Museum by an act of Congress and signed into law in 2008.

PACIFIC

Poll finds S. Korea support for US alliance still strong

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korean support for the alliance with the United States remains strong despite a public row over defense cost-sharing, a recent poll found, as the negotiations remain stalled more than seven months after the previous deal expired.

A veteran U.S. diplomat who was previously the assistant chief of mission in Afghanistan has been named the new envoy leading the talks over how much South Korea should pay to offset the cost of stationing 28,500 troops on the divided peninsula.

The State Department said Monday that Donna Welton, who speaks Japanese fluently and has studied Korean, would replace James DeHart as the senior adviser for security negotiations and agreements. DeHart was appointed as U.S. coordinator for the Arctic last month.

Welton "will pick up where Jim left off" in regards to alliance negotiations with South Korea, Japan and other countries, a State Department spokesperson said Tuesday in an email.

South Korea said it would reach out to Welton, but no immediate plans have been made to resume face-to-face discussions on a new Special Measures Agreement, as the contract is known. The previous deal expired at the end of last year.

"We're going to continue to have negotiations with Washington without any problems," foreign ministry spokesman Kim In-chul told reporters on Tuesday.

The rare public dispute over U.S. demands for South Korea to sharply increase its contribution has raised concerns about a rift in the alliance as tensions rise over North Korea's nuclear program.

The issue has received a lot of attention in the South as critics accuse the Trump administration of treating service members like mercenaries. President Donald Trump has insisted that South Korea is a wealthy country that can and should pay more, in line with his general views toward U.S. allies.

Some 90% of South Korean respondents said they still support the alliance with the United States, which was forged in the 1950-53 Korean War, compared with 92% last year, according to a poll released

Monday by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. That number remained largely steady among those who reported having heard or read a great deal, a fair deal or nothing at all about the negotiations, it found.

The phone survey of a representative national sample of 1,000 adults in South Korea was conducted from June 23 to June 25 by Hankook Research, with funding from the Korea Foundation, it said. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.1%.

However, views about the alliance were largely contingent on the U.S. commitment to defend South Korea against the North, suggesting that any plan to withdraw troops would likely undermine that support, the survey's author said.

"While a range of actions may trigger a decrease in confidence in U.S. commitment to defend South Korea, one of the most immediate reported to be under consideration is a partial withdrawal of U.S. troops," wrote Karl Friedhoff, a public opinion and Asia policy fellow.

"This move has the potential to shift South Korean attitudes away from seeing the alliance as mutually beneficial and towards views that the alliance benefits only the United States," he added.

The Wall Street Journal reported last month that the Pentagon provided proposals to reduce the number of troops in South Korea in March as part of an overall review of how to reposition and potentially reduce military deployments worldwide.

Both sides have played down the report. South Korea said the issue was not raised in the cost-sharing talks. Defense Secretary Mark Esper also said he has given no orders to cut troop strength in South Korea but suggested he wants to pursue a rotational model.

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs survey found that 74% of the respondents said they support the long-term stationing of U.S. soldiers in South Korea, while 24% oppose it.

South Korea has helped pay for U.S. troops under the agreement since 1991, with most of the funds used for local labor providing food, administrative and logistical support, as well as construction costs.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

Lightning struck a gas station at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Monday, knocking out service for about six hours, a garrison spokesman said.

Camp Humphreys gas station hit by lightning

Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Lightning struck a gas station on Camp Humphreys, knocking out service for about six hours, as South Korea was hit by torrential rains, a spokesman said Tuesday.

The lightning hit the top of a diesel tank at about 10:15 a.m. Monday and a monitor indicated the No. 3 tank sensor went out at the gas station near the Eighth Army headquarters, garrison spokesman Steve Hoover told Stars and Stripes.

"A customer said that they actually saw the bolt touch down

on top of the tank," he said in an email, adding that engineers had the problem fixed so service could resume at 4:30 p.m.

Minor damage also was reported elsewhere, with flooding causing the closure of the central issue facility and some streets in low areas, but Hoover said traffic was back to normal Tuesday.

South Korea suffered widespread damage from the storms that began over the weekend, with at least 12 people dead and more than 1,000 forced to evacuate amid flooding and landslides, the Yonhap news agency reported.

news@stripes.com

Truck strikes, kills USAF major on Alaska cycling trip

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

An Air Force squadron commander died Saturday after the bicycle he was riding was hit by a truck northeast of Fairbanks, Alaska.

Maj. Michael "Cal" Gentry, commander of the 354th Contracting Squadron at Eielson Air Force Base, died at the scene on Steese Highway, the Air Force said in a statement Monday.

The 37-year-old was on a 155-mile cycling trip from Fairbanks to Circle, the statement said. He was roughly 30 miles from his



Gentry

traveling as a group, two on bikes while the third was driving a pickup truck in support of the trek. They were taking turns driving.

The driver of the pickup "inad-

vertently struck" Gentry and Jay M. Butler, 39, near the town of Central at about 6 a.m.

Emergency medical personnel from U.S. Army Alaska's 52nd Aviation Regiment at Fort Wainwright airlifted Gentry and Butler to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Butler, who is also stationed at Eielson, was treated and released with minor injuries.

Alaska State Troopers are withholding the identity of the airman who was driving until an investigation is completed.

"Our entire team is heartbroken at the loss of Cal Gentry to this tragic accident," Col. Shawn

Anger, 354th Fighter Wing commander, said in the Air Force statement. "He loved anything and everything outdoors and there is at least a little solace knowing Cal did something he loved."

Anger described Gentry as "an incredible leader in our wing" and "one of the most impressive individuals I've ever had the privilege to serve alongside."

"He was an athlete, academic, innovator, go-getter, you name it — he could do it," Anger said. "On top of all of his talent, he was a devoted family man."

Gentry is survived by his mother, wife and two sons.

He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2007 and assumed command of the contracting squadron in June 2018. He had served in both overseas and deployed locations as a career contracting officer.

His decorations include the Air Force Achievement medal, the Air Force Commendation medal with one Oak Leaf cluster, the Joint Service commendation medal with one Oak Leaf cluster, and the Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf cluster, the statement said.

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Okinawa-based Marine dies in Naha; coronavirus not suspected

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marine Corps is investigating the death of a Marine on Tuesday afternoon in Okinawa's capital of Naha.

The Marine, attached to 3rd

Marine Logistics Group, was not identified pending next-of-kin notification.

The Marine died at approximately 12:30 p.m., according to a 3rd Marine Logistics Group statement. No other details were avail-

able, but Marine officials did say in the statement that the death was not related to the coronavirus.

A Naha Police Station spokesman declined to comment on the death, which he said happened off base. He then added there were no

signs of an accident or foul play.

It's customary in Japan for some government officials to speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

"The cause of death is currently under investigation and we are

cooperating with local authorities on this matter," the Marine statement said. "We at 3d MLG send our thoughts and prayers to the family of this Marine and are saddened by the loss of one of our Marines."

MILITARY

'That could have been any one of us'

Special ops troops face charges after fatal brawl in Iraq

By DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

The party was winding down around 4 a.m. when the fight erupted. The crowd at a bar in northern Iraq — including special operations Marines, defense contractors and civilians — had been drinking and dancing for hours, ringing in the new year.

A conversation between two Americans turned sour. A burly, bearded defense contractor speaking to a Navy corpsman screamed at least one profanity at him, witnesses later said. Bouncers ejected the contractor, an Army Special Forces veteran, who threatened to hurt the sailor when he came outside.

Bouncers told the sailor and two Marine friends to wait five minutes before leaving. But that did not deescalate the situation.

The three men approached the contractor and his colleagues outside, and a brawl ensued. One of the Marines punched the contractor in the side of the head, and the contractor spun around and landed on the back of his head, suffering a nine-inch skull fracture, according to previously unreported military documents and security video reviewed by The Washington Post. He died a few days later, on Jan. 4, 2019.

The contractor's death is at the center of military trials of the sailor and the two Marines, all members of the elite Marine Forces Special Operations Command (MARFSC). It is one of several recent incidents that have raised concerns about the conduct of America's elite combat forces, including an alleged sexual assault by a Navy SEAL in Iraq last summer, cocaine use and the strangulation of a Green Beret soldier in Mali in 2017.

The incidents prompted a review last year by Army Gen. Richard Clarke, chief of U.S. Special Operations Command, which found an erosion of leadership and ethics after nearly 20 years of combat. The resulting report did not cite any specific case but said combat deployments have been "valued above all others things," including professional development and personal maturity.

"We have often been too complacent as we build, train and certify our teams for the rigors of operating in a complex world," Clarke said. "We are renewing emphasis on proper accountability and supervision, and setting conditions for leader presence in the right places."

While military leaders say they are pursuing a culture change, they shielded details of the MARFSC case from public view. Evidence was presented at an Oct. 32 hearing at Camp Lejeune, N.C., last October, but the session was not announced in advance and no media covered it.

The hearing went unannounced "in accordance with service regulations that prohibit including the name of accused in routine disseminations," said Maj. Kristin Tortorici, a Marine spokeswoman. Hearings in such high-profile cases are typically closed.

"The lack of transparency, as well as inaccurate rumors about the case that spread in the special operations community, have stoked suspicion that the Marine Corps is hellbent on obtaining convictions to send a



Richard A. Rodriguez, a contractor and Army Special Forces veteran, died in January from injuries sustained in a brawl outside a sports bar in northern Iraq. Trials are scheduled to begin this fall for two Marine Corps gunnery sergeants and a Navy chief warrant officer charged in the case.

message.

Ten other Marines were punished for "collateral misconduct" uncovered during the investigation, Tortorici said. She declined to describe the punishments, which have not previously been reported.

Some of the Marines punished administratively were present during the fight and have "credibility issues" after making false statements to investigators, according to a military report detailing the case, which was first reported last year by The New York Times.

As in several of the other recent cases, alcohol appears to have played a role, even though with few exceptions it is banned for deployed service members.

The contractor, Richard A. Rodriguez, 45, of Raeford, N.C., was a retired master sergeant and married father with four children. He served 21 years in the Army, deploying to Afghanistan four times and earning a Bronze Star with V for valor in combat in September 2009. At the time of his death, he was working for Lockheed Martin.

Charged in his death are Navy Chief Petty Officer Eric S. Gilmet, Gunnery Sgt. Daniel A. Draher Jr. and Gunnery Sgt. Joshua S. Negron. They are accused of involuntary manslaughter, negligent homicide, obstruction of justice and drinking while deployed in violation of a general order. They each have lengthy service records in combat and are married with children.

Rodriguez's sister said their mother was devastated by his death and died about a year later.

"I don't think her heart handled the sadness of losing one of her kids," Lori Rodriguez said.

The three service members declined interview requests, but their lawyers said they were acting in self-defense and helped Rodriguez after he was knocked out.

"The fact that a tragic accident happened here does not entail that a crime has been committed," said Brian Bouffard, Negron's attorney.

Details in the case are laid out in a previously unreported 21-page document, dated last November, that includes the evidence reviewed at the hearing and recommenda-

tions for senior commanders.

The Americans gathered at the T-Bar, a pub that featured cocktail waitresses, loud music and a Christmas tree. U.S. personnel were allowed to go out for dinner if they got approval and signed out, and were expected to adhere to alcohol prohibitions and meet a midnight curfew.

It isn't clear when Rodriguez and his friends arrived, but video shows that they were in the bar shortly after midnight. The Marines — known as Raiders within the special operations community — and a sailor arrived an hour or two later, and can be seen on video greeting other patrons.

Gilmet said hello to Rodriguez, who worked on the same base. Rodriguez laughed at one point during their conversation.

The bar was emptying at 4:15 a.m. when Rodriguez appeared to struggle to get Gilmet's attention and erupted at the sailor before he was thrown out.

"The evidence establishes that Mr. Rodriguez initiated the situation that eventually escalated into the incident charged," the officer in charge of the Article 32 hearing, Col. Glen Hines, wrote in the report. Hines did not respond to interview requests.

The three service members approached Rodriguez outside a few minutes later.

Rodriguez asked, "Are we going to continue this?" or words to that effect, according to a contractor who was there with him, and Draher, one of the Marines, responded, "Yes," the report says.

Draher told investigators in an unsworn statement that Rodriguez poked him in the chest and was close enough that Draher could feel spit landing on his face.

On video, it appears that Draher approached Rodriguez with his hands at his sides. Rodriguez then moved his head toward Draher, and Draher pushed him away. Rodriguez lunged and swung at Draher, and Negron moved in and punched Rodriguez in the left side of his face. The three men, and possibly others, went down in a heap, video shows.

The fight was over in 15 seconds.

Draher and Negron got up, but Rodriguez was out cold on the street and snoring, witnesses said. He had a small cut on

the back of his head.

Draher, Gilmet and Negron brought the contractor back to their base in their pickup truck, as others out after curfew scattered, the report said.

Another contractor told investigators that the service members said they would have Rodriguez's injuries "looked at," which he thought meant they planned to take him to a nearby military hospital. But they took Rodriguez to his room, and Gilmet, who was trained in combat medicine, stayed with him overnight, the report said.

Negron told at least one other Marine the following morning that he had knocked Rodriguez out with one punch after the contractor became aggressive with Draher.

At 8:30 a.m., Gilmet asked another American to watch out for Rodriguez. The contractor stopped breathing at 10:15 a.m. and was taken to a military hospital. The severity of his injury soon became apparent.

He was flown to Germany for additional care but died there with family members present.

After the hearing last fall, Hines recommended that the men face charges of involuntary manslaughter, negligent homicide and violation of a general order. A conviction on the first charge carries a sentence of up to 10 years.

While Rodriguez was an instigator that night, Hines concluded, the killing was "unlawful" and a "reasonable person" should have seen that his injuries were "serious enough to warrant immediate medical treatment."

But Hines also wrote that the service members could be acquitted if a jury finds that act in self-defense.

MARFSC announced charges last December, adding obstruction of justice, and the trials are expected to begin this fall.

Inside the tightknit Marine special operations community, some believe the military has mishandled the case by pursuing criminal charges and telling other Marines not to speak on their behalf.

Some commanders in Marine Raider veterans' said the accused have been ostracized within MARFSC for months, after inaccurate rumors circulated — and subsequently were reported in media accounts — that they had either pummeled or stomped Rodriguez to death.

"Danny, Josh and Eric, that could have been any one of us," said Vanderbeck, who recently completed a cross-country bicycle ride to raise money for their legal defense. "How many of us have been in the wrong place at the wrong time?"

Rudy Reyes, a Marine veteran turned fitness celebrity, said he also initially heard the rumors that Negron, an old colleague, was accused of "boot-stomping" someone in Iraq.

"Then I find out that he was just defending his boys," Reyes said.

Lori Rodriguez called the allegations against her brother nonsense, describing him as a "protector" who would "never intentionally start a fight."

In a motion, Bouffard accused MARFSC leaders of interfering in the cases, citing conversations that Negron had with other Marines. Commanders pressured "subordinates and others not to assist or testify" on behalf of the accused, and decided they were "not simply guilty, but also apparently unworthy of a fair trial," Bouffard wrote.

A hearing on those allegations was held July 13, and the case was allowed to proceed. Tortorici, the Marine spokeswoman, said MARFSC is "committed to ensuring this legal process is conducted in a fair and impartial manner."

MILITARY

9K DODEA pupils to start virtually

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Around 1 in 7 students in Defense Department schools worldwide will attend school virtually for at least the fall semester, school officials said Tuesday.

Parents of about 9,000 students selected the virtual school option by Thursday's deadline last week, said Stephen Smith, a Department of Defense Education Activity-Europe spokesman said. That represents about 13% of the 69,000 students expected to attend DODEA schools around the world in the upcoming school year.

Breakouts of numbers by specific districts and regions were not available Tuesday evening, Smith said.

Classrooms at the Pentagon's 160 schools will reopen this fall if local conditions allow, the Pentagon has said. DODEA schools were shuttered and classes moved online in the spring as countries around the world locked down to try to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

Students enrolled in virtual school in the fall will be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities at school, DODEA officials said, reversing an earlier decision.

Students have to commit to the virtual option for at least one semester, and can transition to attending classes in-person at the beginning of the second semester if local conditions allow, he said.

All students at DODEA schools on installations already in Health Protection Condition "Charlie" — indicating "sustained commu-



GARRICK W. MORGENWECK/U.S. Army

Kendal Morgenweck, a student at Hohenfels Elementary School, Germany, does her online assignments at home in March, during the coronavirus lockdown. The parents of about 9,000 DODEA students have opted to have their children attend school virtually for the first semester of the 2020-21 school year.

nity transmission" of the virus — will begin the school year using remote learning with their classroom teacher, officials said. School reopenings at bases in the southeastern U.S. have been delayed this month due to the virus.

The union representing DODEA teachers has urged anyone concerned for the health and safety of students, staff and families to ask Congress to require that DODEA schools operate remotely. Federal Education

Association leaders have cited concerns about the availability of personal protective equipment, the feasibility of social distancing and staffing levels.

"Students exposed to COVID-19 at school could bring the virus home and infect their parents, which could have a devastating impact on our nation's military readiness," says a page on the National Education Association's website, which provides a link for people to email their congressio-

nal lawmakers.

DODEA has established guidance that follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

"The health and safety of our students and employees remains a top priority and has been a primary consideration throughout the planning and preparation for a safe return to school," Smith said.

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Army names commander of Poland-based V Corps HQ

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — U.S. and Polish defense officials attended a ceremony Tuesday to name the commander of U.S. Army V Corps' overseas headquarters, which will be located in Poland to further enhance America's military presence in the region.

U.S. Army Chief of Staff, Gen. James McConville named Maj. Gen. John Kolasheski as the commanding general of the headquarters that will have a staff of about 200, starting in 2021.

Last week, while announcing the withdrawal of some 12,000 troops from Germany, U.S. defense leaders said the V Corps headquarters abroad will be in Poland. Its mission will be operational planning, command and oversight of U.S. forces based on a rotational basis in Poland and elsewhere in Europe.

Some 4,500 U.S. troops are currently based in Poland, but about 1,000 more are to be added.

Unexploded ordnance disposed of at UK base

By BRIAN FERGUSON
Stars and Stripes

Unexploded ordnance that forced more than 20 buildings on RAF Mildenhall, England, to be evacuated and off-base personnel to shelter indoors has been disposed of in a controlled detonation, base officials said.

The detonation happened at around 4:15 p.m. local time, more than six hours after the unexploded devices were discovered near a hangar during routine construction work, base spokesman Tech. Sgt. Emerson Nunez said.

"The 'scene was deemed safe' after the controlled explosion, he said in an email message.

The 100th Air Refueling Wing, based at Mildenhall, 48th Fighter Wing from nearby RAF Lakenheath, and the U.K. Joint Explosive Ordnance Disposal Operations Center were part of the hourslong effort to safely dispose of the devices, the email said.

A 1,000-foot safety cord that was set up around the hangar where the ordnance was found was lifted after the detonation. All areas of the base had resumed normal activities by late afternoon, and "off-base personnel in the affected areas are no longer required to remain indoors," Nunez said.

It was unclear how many devices were destroyed or what type of ordnance they were.

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Afghanistan: UN team finds Taliban, al-Qaida still linked

FROM FRONT PAGE

go to the Middle East ... was the single biggest mistake made in the history of our country. That's my opinion."

With the Afghanistan War in its 19th year, many critics believe much of the U.S. mission is no longer justified. Trump's challenger in the upcoming election, former Vice President Joe Biden, said earlier this year that the U.S. should only be there to prevent terrorist groups from threatening the U.S.

"That requires a much smaller footprint," he said on CBS's "Face the Nation," days before the U.S.-Taliban peace agreement was signed Feb. 29. That, he said, would mean "several thousand people."

Some lawmakers, however, fear a hasty troop drawdown without appropriate measures in place to ensure the Taliban live up to their promises could destabilize the country.

In a bipartisan vote last month, the House approved a measure restricting the administration from drawing down troops below 8,000 without first certifying that

security and counterterrorism efforts would not be harmed. The measure must still gain Senate approval to take effect.

A United Nations monitoring team also recently found that the Taliban relationship with al-Qaida, which was to be severed under the terms of the February agreement, remained "close, based on friendship, a history of shared struggle, ideological sympathy and intermarriage."

Axios published parts of the interview last week where Trump said that he had not talked with Russian President Vladimir Putin about reported intelligence that Russian officials had offered Taliban bounties on U.S. troops in Afghanistan. He dismissed the reports as not credible.

"Russia doesn't want anything to do with Afghanistan," Trump said, harkening to the decade-long war Moscow waged in the country in the 1980s that is credited with helping break up the Soviet Union.

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ALEX BRANDON/AP

"Russia doesn't want anything to do with Afghanistan," President Donald Trump recently told Axios.

VIRUS OUTBREAK



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

People stroll down Barcelona, Spain's famed Las Ramblas in pre-coronavirus times. Official military travel for U.S. European Command personnel to Belgium and Spain now requires approval, but leisure travel is allowed. Policy at some commands within Europe remained unclear Tuesday.

Military toughens rules on travel to Belgium, Spain amid rise in cases

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. European Command staff now need special approval for business trips to Belgium and Spain because of concerns about a rise in coronavirus infections in those countries, the military said Tuesday.

"Official travel now requires an exception to policy for Spain and Belgium," said Robert Ditchey, a EUCOM spokesman.

The change does not apply to leisure travel so personnel can still visit those countries without an exception to policy, EUCOM said.

But a EUCOM map that highlighted Spain and Belgium as designated "red" countries with travel restrictions caused confusion among some military commands this week and could have implications for airmen in Germany.

Ramstein Air Base's website omitted Spain and Belgium from its list of "green" countries acceptable for leisure travel for airmen, citing EUCOM's guidance on travel — even though EUCOM's guidance doesn't actually ban leisure travel to those countries.

Airmen can seek approval for leisure travel but the countries must be designated as "green," according to coronavirus information on the base's website.

When asked to clarify if this meant airmen could no longer travel to Spain or Belgium for leisure, U.S. Air Forces in Europe referred questions to EUCOM.

The map image, which was posted to various Army Garrison Facebook pages, left some with the impres-

sion that all travel was restricted for all personnel.

"Be careful if you are traveling to Belgium or Spain," the Army garrison in Rheinland-Pfalz posted on its official Facebook page. "You may not be able to get back into Germany ... or, may have to quarantine for two weeks. But, probably won't even be able to cross the border."

However, the European Union still regards Belgium and Spain as "green" countries, which means it is considered safe for travel with a relatively contained coronavirus outbreak.

In Spain, the regions of Catalonia, which includes Barcelona, Navarre and Aragon are risk areas and travel could require being quarantined upon return, Germany's Robert Koch Institute said.

When it comes to leisure travel, EUCOM follows EU designations in determining which countries are red and green. It imposes a stricter standard for official travel.

Army personnel should check with their respective organizations' leadership for the most up-to-date guidance, said Mark Heeter, a spokesman for the service's Installation Management Command-Europe.

The command "will continue to adhere to host nation rules and decrees, and the policies and regulations of EUCOM and US Army Europe," Heeter said.

Spain has seen a rise in coronavirus cases, mainly in the greater Barcelona area. In Belgium, many of the cases have been concentrated in Antwerp. The U.S. military has troops stationed in both countries, but far from those cities.

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Some USFJ troops using dating app while quarantined

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The senior enlisted leader for U.S. Forces Japan has singled out military personnel for using dating apps and "hooking up" while under quarantine.

To prevent the coronavirus' spread, U.S. service members and civilians arriving in Japan are placed in "restriction of movement," or ROM, for 14 days. People will soon have to test negative for the illness before being released, under a new policy adopted after a spate of cases were brought to Japan by personnel arriving from the United States.

However, some under quarantine aren't following the rules, USFJ Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Winegardner Jr. told American Forces Network during a livestreamed interview from Yokota.

"We're seeing some folks that ... are like, 'OK, I'm in here but I can just kind of sneak out.' What I would ask is if you know that somebody is doing this ... ask them to stop," he said, without elaborating on the violations or where they happened.

Some in quarantine are using dating apps such as Tinder and Bumble and "hooking up with folks," he said, without specifying whether the other parties involved were from the military community or outside the gates.

U.S. installations in Japan have differing policies about guest access, which has been limited or outright barred during the pandemic.

"They are not supposed to go out, but that doesn't mean you go in," Winegardner said of people in quarantine.

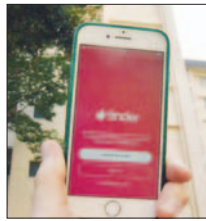
Troops not under quarantine have also brought the coronavirus out bases after going into unauthorized locations and establishments, he added.

"Wow, big surprise when you are bringing that stuff back," he said. "Service members are getting popped left and right for going to places that they don't belong in, areas that they don't belong ... bar districts."

Rule-breakers will face "quick and appropriate action," Col. Thomas Matelski, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Japan, said in a video message Thursday, after people from the garrison were seen partying in off-limits parts of Tokyo.

"It seems like a few members of our team are starting to lose focus," said Matelski, who oversees Camp Zama and Sagami General Depot in Kanagawa prefecture.

Gen. Viet X. Luong, commander of U.S. Army Japan, in



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes illustration

During an American Forces Network interview Tuesday the senior enlisted leader for U.S. Forces Japan said some troops in quarantine have "hooked up" with people met via dating apps.

his video message Thursday cited a "recent spike" in violations as a reason for increasing the health protection condition and tightening restrictions.

Tokyo recorded 390 new coronavirus cases Tuesday, down from a record-high 472 infections on Saturday. USFJ reported 127 active coronavirus cases Tuesday with most at bases on Okinawa.

The people in the military community who are testing positive are in their 20s and 30s, Winegardner said.

Rule-breakers have lost two levels of rank and received extra duties and fines, he added.

"What is coming to you, I'm glad because these are the things that are endangering us," he said. "I know commanders are getting upset with the lack of adherence. Commanders are starting to get real serious about this."

Japanese authorities are also looking into violations of rules by U.S. personnel, he said.

A person who recently took a domestic flight in Japan to reach their duty station after arriving from the U.S. and later received a positive coronavirus test result could face a fine of \$5,000 to \$7,000, Winegardner said.

However, he noted, only one person assigned to USFJ has been hospitalized with the coronavirus and nobody has been in intensive care since the pandemic began.

U.S. forces have limited testing facilities on some bases and are sending tests to Okinawa and South Korea for processing, he said. Officials are looking at using contractors to increase testing capacity.

More testing will allow the military to get back to a more normal battle rhythm with exercises and deployments, Winegardner added.

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Philippine capital back under lockdown

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Commuter trains, buses and other public vehicles stayed off the main roads of the Philippine capital Tuesday and police were again staffing checkpoints to restrict public travel as surging virus cases forced another lockdown.

Officials deployed dozens of shuttle buses, along with army trucks, to ferry stranded medical

personnel and workers of authorized businesses. Most domestic flights to and from the capital were cancelled, and night curfews will return in places.

Crowds trooped to some supermarkets Monday to stock up on food after the hasty return to a lockdown sparked panic-buying.

The lockdown is milder than the first one imposed, which largely confined most people to their homes for months, but is more se-

vere than the quarantine restrictions the capital had been under recently. It is being imposed in metropolitan Manila and outlying provinces for two weeks.

President Rodrigo Duterte agreed to reinstate the lockdown after medical groups warned the health care system was being overwhelmed by COVID-19 patients. More than 106,000 people have been infected, including more than 2,100 who have died.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Okinawa announces one-day high in cases

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
and AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A coronavirus surge on Okinawa continued Tuesday with 83 new cases among the local population and 12 among the Marine Corps, according to official statements.

The number of new local infections is the highest reported on one day since July 31, when the island prefecture counted 71 cases. Okinawa has reported 638 cases since the pandemic began.

The prefecture, which tries to isolate every infected individual, will allow some to stay home if they have mild or no symptoms. A prefectural health official told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday. Okinawa is struggling with more coronavirus cases than it has rooms or beds to accommodate.

The prefecture on Monday had 221 patients waiting on a place to isolate, according to its website. Another 12 people were hospitalized, with two in critical condition. Another 50 were in hotel

rooms and five at home.

As of Monday, nearly half of Okinawa's local cases were in the prefectural capital, Naha City, the website said.

With 12 new coronavirus cases reported at Camp Hansen on Tuesday, the Marine Corps' total from two clusters discovered after Fourth of July weekend rose to 268.

The affected individuals tested positive for the virus as they neared the end of their quarantine period, according to a Facebook post Tuesday by Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

None showed symptoms prior to the tests, according to an email Tuesday from Maj. Ken Kunze, a spokesman for the command. The Marines did not specify whether the individuals are service members, Defense Department civilian employees, contractors or family members.

A total of 284 people affiliated with the U.S. military in Okinawa have tested positive for coronavirus since the pandemic began. 281 of those infections were an-

nounced after July 1.

Also, a Japanese barber on Camp Hansen tested positive for the coronavirus, according to a separate Facebook post by the installations command Tuesday. Anyone who received a haircut at the camp's main barbershop between July 27 and July 31 must self-quarantine and contact their command, according to the post.

So far, six Japanese employees of the U.S. military have tested positive for the coronavirus. Two are from Kadena Air Base, two are from Camp Foster and one is from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Kunze wrote that Marines are monitoring the rising number of off-base cases, which could factor into a decision to impose greater restrictions on U.S. personnel.

However, the Marines believe they have the cluster outbreaks at Camp Hansen and MCAS Futenma under control, he added.

"We are cautiously optimistic that we have curbed the spread among the two clusters that we identified at the beginning of July

at MCAS Futenma and Camp Hansen," he wrote. "Those clusters were largely contained in a few units that arrived from the US in mid-June."

The outbreaks most likely stemmed from asymptomatic service members arriving on Okinawa from the U.S. and being released at the end of quarantine without being tested, Kunze said by phone Tuesday.

That practice stopped in early July when the clusters were discovered.

Kunze said individuals must now be tested before they leave quarantine. He added that all the new cases arose in those already being monitored due to their contacts or because of planned batch testing.

Nearly 75% of all the cases the Marines have discovered since early July have been individuals without symptoms, according to the Marines' Facebook post. Kunze said all the cases have come with only mild symptoms; none required a hospital stay.

The Marines conduct hundreds

of tests per day, Kunze wrote in his email. They surpassed 6,500 tests last week, of which 5% were positive for the coronavirus.

"That number has been decreasing as we continue to test," Kunze wrote. "The total number of tests conducted per day fluctuates, but it is in the hundreds and will remain in the hundreds as we test individuals arriving on island and as we test units prior to departure with the 31st [Marine Expeditionary Unit]."

Kunze declined to comment on the number of Marines in quarantine for security reasons. He said the Marines are focused on educating incoming personnel on movement restrictions and quarantine procedures.

Another three individuals affiliated with the Marine Corps were released from isolation on Tuesday, according to Marine Corps Installations Pacific, for a total of 210 released thus far.

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Hawaii Marines shutter Subway shop, fitness center

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Marine Corps has closed a Subway shop and a fitness center on separate Hawaii installations after two people became infected with the coronavirus.

An employee at the Subway near the main gate at Marine Corps Base Hawaii tested positive for the virus on Thursday, the Marine Corps said in a Facebook post. The employee had last worked on July 27.

"Out of an abundance of caution, the Subway will remain closed until further guidance from the MCBH Public Health Emergency Officer," the post said. "All appropriate measures are being taken, to include deep cleaning of the facility."

Then, on Friday, a patron of the fitness center at Camp Smith tested positive. The person had last visited the gym on Thursday for a one-hour workout.

The Camp Smith Semper Fit Center reopened Monday after the public health emergency officer approved the "deep sanitation" that was conducted, according

to Capt. Eric Abrams, a spokesperson for Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

"In accordance with Navy Medicine and Incident (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines, the Marine Corps conducted contact tracing and notified personnel who met the contact tracing criteria," Abrams said.

Camp Smith, on the outskirts of Honolulu, is the headquarters for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Marine Forces Pacific and Special Operations Command Pacific.

The Subway worker was not a "customer-facing employee," said Abrams, who declined to provide further details on the infected individuals.

The Pentagon has ordered military installations to stop publicly reporting coronavirus tallies, a directive that bases on Hawaii have largely followed.

"Right now, we are not releasing cases as a whole from the base," Abrams said. "The reason why we released it here is because it's a customer-facing facility. We were shutting that down, and we wanted to be open and transparent with any customers that may have been in there — and just



SAMANTHA SANCHEZ/U.S. Marine Corps

Col. Speros Koumparakis, commander of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, greets a family outside Mokapu Elementary School on base on July 28.

the base as a whole."

The number of new cases reported each day in Hawaii spiked dramatically through July, from single digits to an all-time high of 207 new cases on Monday.

The state has had 2,448 cases and 26 deaths, according to the Hawaii Department of Health.

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Governors urge extension of federal funds for National Guard troops

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Many governors are yet again urging the White House to extend federal funds for National Guard troops deployed to fight the coronavirus pandemic as cases of the virus continue to mount up across the country.

The National Governors Association said Monday that its membership of the leaders of the 55 states, territories and commonwealths "strongly urge" President Donald Trump to extend the authorization

of federal National Guard orders to allow states to continue to use troops in various missions associated with the coronavirus pandemic "likely until a vaccine is available." The existing federal orders are set to end Aug. 21.

"While we appreciate the administration's support over the past few months, short-term extensions and last-minute authorizations are adversely impacting and disrupting state plans and operations," according to an association statement sent to the White House.

The federal statute, known as Title 32,

provides federal funds to pay for the troops to complete missions approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but keeps the Guard members under the control of the state's leadership. The status also provides Guard members with additional federal benefits and pay not afforded them on state status, such as education and health care benefits, housing allowance, promotion points and benefits associated with retirement.

As of Monday morning, more than 24,900 Air and Army National Guard members were deployed in 50 states, three

territories and the District of Columbia to support civilian agencies with coronavirus missions, according to the National Guard Bureau. At the height of deployment levels in May, nearly 50,000 troops were activated for missions that included sorting and delivering medical supplies, cleaning high-traffic public spaces and assisting nursing homes with testing, cleaning and caring for patients.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

Houston to enforce masks with fines; Texas deaths top 7K

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston's mayor on Monday instructed police to begin issuing \$250 fines for flouting statewide mask orders in hopes that August will stamp out a grim summer resurgence of COVID-19 that is now responsible for at least 7,000 confirmed deaths in Texas.

The move by Mayor Sylvester Turner comes one month after Republican Gov. Greg Abbott mandated face coverings in the midst of a massive outbreak. Since then, Texas as a whole has seen encouraging trends in hospitalizations and infection rates, but Turner described August as a critical month as schools approach reopening and fall flu season lurks around the corner.

Those caught not wearing masks in America's fourth-largest city would first receive a warning, followed by a fine on a second offense.

Turner said that while hospitalizations for the virus are falling, they remain high. The positivity rate for the virus in the city is at 17%, down from a high of 25.9% on July 5. But officials would like the positivity rate to be at 5% or below, Turner said.

Arizona

PHOENIX — Arizona's top public health official was grilled in court Monday over why health clubs must remain closed in a bid to guard against the spread of the coronavirus, yet supermarkets, restaurants and other businesses can remain open.

Dr. Cara Christ, director of the Arizona Department of Health Services, testified in a lawsuit filed by two health club chains challenging Gov. Doug Ducey's gym closure order. The clubs lost an earlier challenge but renewed their reopening request after the governor extended the closure.

Unlike supermarkets and hardware stores, customers inside health clubs could cause the virus to spread through vigorous breathing within enclosed spaces, even when masks and social distancing requirements are followed, Christ said.

The clubs have argued that they should be allowed to reopen because they require masks and social distancing and have reduced their overall capacity. They maintain they don't pose any greater risk of spreading the virus than businesses that have been allowed to reopen.

Kansas

TOPEKA — Kansas has seen its rate of positive coronavirus tests inch up and reported cases double in nearly half of the state's

counties over the past month, as the state is approaching 29,000 reported cases for the pandemic.

The state Department of Health and Environment reported Monday that the state had another 1,064 cases since Friday, up 3.8% to 28,876.

The department also reported another seven COVID-19-related deaths, bringing the total to 365 for the pandemic.

The health department reported that 9.6% of the nearly 302,000 coronavirus tests on Kansas residents have been positive since the pandemic reached the state in early March. The positive rate-to-date dropped to 8% in late June and stood at 8.3% on July 3.

Kentucky

FRANKFORT — Kentucky posted lower numbers of new coronavirus cases Monday, but the governor braced the state for a potential increase in virus-related deaths after weeks of surging infections.

Gov. Andy Beshear reported 323 additional virus cases, down significantly from daily totals in July that often totaled in the 500s and 600s — and sometimes higher. July turned into the state's "toughest month" in terms of total cases since the pandemic began, he said.

But on a day when Beshear reported two more virus-related deaths statewide, he warned the death toll could climb in August due to the escalating July cases.

But Beshear said recent trends in virus cases indicate his mask mandate is working. New weekly virus case totals were surging at rates of about 50% prior to his order last month requiring most Kentuckians to wear masks in public, Beshear said. Since the mask mandate took effect, those weekly case increases eventually slowed to 4% and 5%, he said.

Michigan

LANSING — Michigan on Monday ordered coronavirus testing of agricultural and migrant workers, citing nearly a dozen outbreaks at farms and food-processing plants in recent weeks.

Under the emergency order issued by the state Department of Health and Human Services, migrant housing camp operators must do initial baseline testing of all residents age 18 and older. New residents must be tested within 48 hours of their arrival, be provided separate housing and get a second test 10 to 14 days after arriving.

Agricultural employers with more than 20 workers on site at a time must also ensure testing — both for current and new em-



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Members of the Nevada National Guard install social distancing stickers while setting up a new temporary coronavirus testing site Monday in Las Vegas.

ployees and any workers with symptoms or suspected exposure to COVID-19. The requirement applies to meat, poultry and egg processing plants, greenhouses and employers that hire migrant or season workers who do not live on site.

A spokeswoman said department officials were not aware of any other states requiring such universal testing of agricultural and migrant workers.

Missouri

KANSAS CITY — Health departments in at least 50 Missouri counties have not received any money from the federal government, even though the state received hundreds of millions of dollars in early May.

Local public health agencies across the state are trying to ramp up testing and contact tracing, but have said their hands are tied because the state has not delivered any federal aid. According to The Kansas City Star, the money was instead given to their local county commissions and in many places have held up the money.

Bert Malone, a member of the Missouri Public Health Association, said it was frustrating that money was allocated to county commissions, which in several cases have been in conflict with their health departments. It appears some commissions have made their decisions based on politics rather than on public health, he said.

In the past two weeks, Missouri had the second-highest rate of new coronavirus cases in the country, second only to Connecticut, according to the COVID Exit Strategy.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS — Nevada will shift this week from broad re-

strictions in response to the coronavirus to an ongoing, county-by-county review where officials hope to target hot spots and specific businesses where the virus is spreading.

Gov. Steve Sisolak and the state's COVID-19 Response Director Caleb Cage said at a news conference Monday night that the state would evaluate Nevada's 17 counties every Thursday on how they are faring on new reported cases of COVID-19, rates of positive tests and tests per day.

Nevada is forming a new task force of state agency officials who will meet weekly and review the data from the counties. If counties do not meet at least two of the criteria for at least two weeks in a row, then the task force will work with county officials to come up with a response plan for the following week.

The response plans could vary depending on what information officials have about where the spread is occurring, but the plans could include increased enforcement, stricter limits on gathering sizes or reduced capacity in particular businesses.

South Dakota

RAPID CITY — The South Dakota Department of Health said the number of confirmed coronavirus cases at a Christian youth summer camp in the Black Hills has grown to 96.

Health officials said Monday that 93 South Dakota residents and three out-of-state residents have COVID-19 after attending Camp Judson near Keystone. The camp shut down several weeks ago.

State epidemiologist Joshua Clayton said 328 people had been at the camp. He said 44 of the 93 South Dakota cases have recovered, the Rapid City Journal

reported.

Clayton said the average age among the church camp's cases is 15 years old, with some as young as 5 to 9 and as old as 70 to 74 becoming infected. Of the South Dakota cases, 59 were women and 34 were men. None have been hospitalized, he said.

Washington

OLYMPIA — Washington Gov. Jay Inslee released updated guidance Monday for gyms and fitness facilities that nearly triples the minimum distance required for patrons exercising indoors, except for those practicing certain team sports.

Starting Aug. 10, instead of the current requirement of six feet of distance between patrons, gyms and facilities in counties in Phase 2 and 3 of the state's COVID-19 economic reopening plan will now be required to provide 300 square feet — about 17 feet — of distance. The number of people allowed in gyms, fitness facilities and fitness classes will be limited by the size of their space under this guidance, and occupancy in facilities and gyms that are larger than 12,000 square feet will be capped at 25%.

In addition, showers, hot tubs, saunas, and tanning beds will be closed, as will steam rooms, squash courts, and racquetball courts. Indoor team sport facilities will also be limited for practice and limited competition with no spectators.

Patrons won't have to wear facial coverings while engaged in strenuous exercise, though they must wear them immediately before and immediately after exercise and at all other times while inside fitness facilities. The guidance encourages outdoor locations for fitness training and team sports.

VIRUS OUTBREAK



JANINE VINCENT, NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS/AP

Newton County Elementary School kindergarten teacher Beth Lang checks Breeze Nichols' temperature before she enters the classroom as principal Jason Roberson, right, ushers her to her class on her first day of school in Decatur, Miss., on Monday.

Case count increases in Midwestern states with previously low infections

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The coronavirus is surging in several Midwestern states that had not previously seen high infection rates, while average daily deaths remained elevated Monday in Southern and Western states hit with a resurgence of the disease after lifting some restrictions earlier this summer.

Missouri, Montana and Oklahoma are among those witnessing the largest percentage surge of infections over the past week, while, adjusted for population, the number of new cases in Alabama, Florida and Mississippi still outpaced all other states, according to a Washington Post analysis of health data.

Experts have also seen worrying trends emerging in major East Coast and Midwestern cities, and they anticipate major outbreaks in college towns as classes resume in August.

The University of Texas at Austin notified students that parties are prohibited when the campus reopens in three weeks. The school cited city health guidelines prohibiting groups larger than 10 people and requiring a mask when out in public.

President Donald Trump continued his push to fully reopen schools, even as some of the nation's largest districts are delaying in-person instruction amid continuing spread of the virus.

"Ideally, we want to open those schools. We want to open them," Trump said during a White House news conference.

Trump also said the United States is doing much better dealing with the virus than most other countries — a claim inconsistent with facts — and accused the news media of trying to make him and the country look "as bad as possible."

At least 4.6 million coronavirus cases and 151,000 fatalities have

A group of top executives predict another wave of permanent business closures by Labor Day if the government does not provide aid for small businesses.

been reported in the U.S. since February.

Despite growing momentum in the search for a vaccine and Trump's confident assessment Monday that "we're on pace to have a vaccine available this year, maybe far in advance of the end of the year," the head of the World Health Organization warned that "there's no silver bullet at the moment, and there might never be."

WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Monday that "a number of coronavirus vaccines are now in Phase 3 clinical trials, and we all hope to have a number of effective vaccines that can help prevent people from infection."

He cautioned, however, that "of course there are concerns that we may not have a vaccine that may work" or that its protection would only be effective for a short time.

As the economic fallout from the virus widens, top executives at Disney, IBM, Mastercard and Microsoft were among more than 100 business leaders who called on Congress to provide emergency relief for small businesses facing economic calamity.

In a letter sent to congressional leaders of both major political parties Monday, the executives issued a dire warning of mass closures triggered by the coronavirus, as companies report declining revenue and face the prospect of shutting down yet again to contain the outbreak.

The signatories put forward a series of recommendations, including federally guaranteed loans to last into 2021, flexibility in how those loans are put to use,

partial loan forgiveness for small and midsize companies that have suffered significant revenue declines and a focus on funding for businesses owned by people of color.

More than 4 million businesses have received emergency loans from the Small Business Administration, with Congress approving \$700 billion in funding to support them. But for the 30 million small businesses in the country, that funding was too limited and short-lived, business leaders have said. The letter calls for a more robust and sustained effort from the federal government.

"We cannot stress enough the urgent need to act," the letter says. "Every day that passes without a comprehensive recovery program makes recovery more difficult."

The business leaders have predicted another wave of permanent business closures by Labor Day if the government does not provide aid.

Trump continued to insist that hydroxychloroquine is an effective treatment for the coronavirus, even as leading health officials in his administration have concluded otherwise. The president suggested that opposition to its effectiveness is because he supports it, not because of science.

Hydroxy has tremendous support, but politically it's toxic because I supported it," Trump told reporters at the White House on Monday. "If I would have said, 'Do not use hydroxychloroquine under any circumstances,' they would have come out and they would have said, 'It's a great, it's a great thing.'"

'A line in the sand': Both sides dig in on relief bill progress

By ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Negotiators on a huge coronavirus relief bill reported slight progress after talks resumed in the Capitol, with issues like food for the poor and aid to schools struggling to reopen safely assuming a higher profile in the talks.

Multiple obstacles remain, including an impasse on extending a \$600-per-week pandemic jobless benefit, funding for the U.S. Postal Service and aid to renters facing eviction. Democratic negotiators spoke of progress Monday, but Republicans remain privately pessimistic.

"We are really getting an understanding of each side's position. And we're making some progress on certain issues moving closer together," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

After the meeting, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told her Democratic colleagues on a call that she's hopeful a deal could be reached this week but doesn't know if it's possible, according to a Democratic aide who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the private discussion.

Neither side has budged from their positions, with Democrats demanding an extension of the \$600-per-week supplemental unemployment benefit that's credited with propping up the economy. Republicans have yet to offer any aid to states to prevent furloughs, layoffs and cuts to services. Both will have to compromise before a deal can be agreed upon.

"The \$600 unemployment insurance benefit is essential because there are no jobs to go back to," House Democratic Caucus Chair Hakeem Jeffries of New York said on MSNBC on Tuesday morning. "We've got to help out everyday Americans. That's a line in the sand."

Senate Republicans facing reelection in this fall's turbulent political environment are among those most anxious for an agreement. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said Monday that the chamber should not go on recess without passing the huge relief measure, and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., offered a jobless benefit proposal that's more generous than a pending GOP alternative. Both are facing closer-than-hoped reelection in states that should be a hot bed for Republican support.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, a lead negotiator for President Donald Trump, said Monday that "we continue to make a little bit of progress" and that the administration is not inconsistent on a small-bore approach centered on ensuring supplemental unemployment ben-

efit and leaving other items for later. A GOP move to advance a slimmed-down relief package has been a recent point of conflict, with Democrats insisting there must be a comprehensive deal.

"We're open to a bigger package if we can reach an agreement," Mnuchin said.

On the Senate floor, McConnell, R-Ky., re-upped his complaint that Democrats are taking too tough a line. McConnell is not a direct participant in the talks but is likely to be an important force in closing out any potential agreement.

Speaking to reporters after the two-hour session, Democratic negotiators pressed the case for additional food aid, funding for the Postal Service and the \$600-per-week jobless benefit that lapsed last week. The benefit has helped sustain consumer demand over recent months as the coronavirus has wrought havoc. Pelosi wants to extend it through January at a \$400 billion-plus cost, while Republicans are proposing an immediate cut to \$200 and then replacing the benefit with a cumbersome system that would attempt to provide 70% of a worker's "replacement wage."

"It was productive, we're moving down the track. We still have our differences, we are trying to have a clearer understanding of what the needs are, and the needs are that millions of children in our country are food insecure," Pelosi said.

Most members of the Democratic-controlled House have left Washington and won't return until there is an agreement to vote on, but the GOP-held Senate is trapped in the capital.

"I can't see how we can go home and tell people we've failed, so I think that's going to be a lot of pressure on everybody to come up with something," said Cornyn, a close ally of McConnell. "It really is a matter of will. It's not a matter of substance at this point. This is just a painful period between people finally deciding OK, we want a deal, and then what that deal will ultimately look like."

Areas of agreement already include another round of \$1,200 direct payments and changes to the Paycheck Protection Program to permit especially hard-hit businesses to obtain another loan under generous forgiveness terms.

On unemployment, Pelosi said she'd consider reducing the \$600 benefit for people in states with lower unemployment rates. Republicans want to cut the benefit to encourage beneficiaries to return to work and have said it is bad policy since it pays many jobless people more money than they made at their previous jobs.

NATION/WORLD

Storm: 'Pretty much the entire trailer park is gone' in NC town

FROM FRONT PAGE

along the coasts of North and South Carolina.

Nevertheless, some veterans of earlier storms were under the impression that their areas would be spared.

Royce Potter, a fifth-generation seafood purveyor and owner of Potter's Seafood in Southport, said he rode out the storm on a boat docked near his business, which was damaged by the wind and water.

"They got this wrong," Potter said, visibly shaken. "I've ridden storms out here for years."

The storm surge and wind damage actually matched what the hurricane center predicted, leaving dozens of boats piled up against the docks and many decks facing the water smashed.

As Hurricane Isaias' heaviest bands approached North Myrtle Beach, S.C., Monday evening, Dean Burris watched from the balcony of his family's vacation rental.

"The water was crazy; the wind was up. The waves were coming up over the pier out there and people were walking, and we were scared for them," he said.

Burris said a group of people were standing on Sea Cabin Pier taking photos, but took off running for land just moments before a portion collapsed from the strength of the storm.

"Next thing you know, the water kept getting higher and higher. It overtook the pier and I'm shocked it's still standing."

Two people were killed and at least three others were unaccounted for after a tornado destroyed several mobile homes in Windsor, N.C., said Ron Wesson, the chairman of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners. He said as many as 15 others were taken to hospitals with injuries.

An aerial shot by WRAL-TV showed fields of debris where rescue workers in brightly colored shirts picked through splintered boards and other wreckage. Nearby, a vehicle was flipped onto its roof, its tires pointed up



PHOTOS BY GERRY BROOME/AP

A beachgoer navigates a sand and water-covered beachfront road following the effects of Hurricane Isaias in Oak Island, N.C., on Tuesday.



Residents begin to clean up following the effects of Hurricane Isaias in Southport, N.C., on Tuesday

in the air.

"It doesn't look real. It looks like something on TV. Nothing is there," Bertie County Sheriff John Holley told reporters. "All my officers are down there at

this time. Pretty much the entire trailer park is gone."

The National Weather Service confirmed tornadoes in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey.

The hurricane's eye moved over land near Ocean Isle Beach, N.C., just after 11 p.m. Monday with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph. Many homes were flooded and at least five caught fire in the city, Mayor Debbie Smith told WECT-TV.

Forecasters expected the storm to hold its strength and spin off damaging winds on a path into New England on Tuesday night.

"We don't think there is going to be a whole lot of weakening. We still think there's going to be very strong and gusty winds that will affect much of the mid-Atlantic and the Northeast over the next day or two," hurricane specialist Robbie Berg told The Associated Press.

As the rains grew stronger and steadier in the Philadelphia area Tuesday, emergency responders rescued a few people trapped in vehicles when roads suddenly became flooded and mostly impass-

able. No injuries were reported.

Isaias toggled between tropical storm and hurricane through its path to the U.S. coast, killing two people in the Caribbean and trashing the Bahamas before brushing past Florida.

Most of the significant damage seemed to be east and north of where the hurricane's eye struck land.

Gov. Roy Cooper said Tuesday morning that Brunswick, Pender and Onslow counties, along North Carolina's southeast coast, were among the hardest hit with storm surge, structure fires and reports of tornadoes. About two dozen shelters were open, he said.

Eileen and David Hubler were out early Tuesday cleaning up in North Myrtle Beach, where the storm surge topped 4 feet, flooding cars, unhinging docks and etching a water line into the side of their home.

"When the water started coming, it did not stop," she said. They had moved most items of value to their second floor, but a mattress and washing machine were unexpected storm casualties. Eileen Hubler said Isaias' incoming wrath was downplayed, and she wishes she had followed her gut.

"We keep thinking we've learned our lesson. And each time there's a hurricane, we learn a new lesson. The new lesson is you never trust that you're going to have a 2-foot storm surge," she said.

Coastal shops and restaurants had closed early in the Carolinas, where power began to flicker at oceanfront hotels and even the most adventurous of beachgoers abandoned the sand Monday night. The Hurricane Center warned residents to brace for storm surge up to 5 feet and up to 8 inches of rain in spots.

As the storm got closer to the shore, a gauge on a pier in Myrtle Beach recorded its third-highest water level since it was set up in 1976. Only Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016 had pushed more salt water inland.

Massive blast in port rocks Beirut

Bloomberg News

A massive explosion at Lebanon's main port rocked the capital Beirut and its suburbs, injuring dozens of people and damaging many buildings.

Footage showed a huge plume of smoke billowing into the sky over the Port of Beirut, as well as severe damage to buildings and shops in the area, including the home of former Prime Minister Saad Hariri. Windows shattered in buildings across the city.

Abbas Ibrahim, head of the country's General Security, said the explosion wasn't due to fireworks as reported earlier by the local media. He told reporters at the scene that the blast was due to highly explosive materials at the port depot.

The Lebanese Red Cross said it

was at the scene of the explosion, and reported dozens of people injured.

People were seen rushing on foot and motorbikes, some with blood streaming over their faces, outside a Beirut hospital as medical staff tried to admit more severe cases.

Debris filled the ground at the port and other footage showed damaged container trucks and vehicles.

Lebanon is undergoing its worst political and financial crisis in decades. The country's foreign minister resigned Monday, warning that conflicting interests threatened to turn the country into "a failed state."

The government, backed by the militant Hezbollah group and its allies, has struggled to carry out

reforms demanded by the international community as the price of a bailout. Talks with the International Monetary Fund for a \$10 billion loan have stalled, and the government has appealed for aid from Gulf countries — primarily Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar.

The onetime benefactors have been wary about channeling funds into Lebanon as they'd done in the past, especially given Iran-backed Hezbollah's growing influence in the country. Hezbollah is classified by Gulf states and the U.S. as a terrorist group.

Hezbollah and Israel have also traded blows in recent days after an alleged Israeli airstrike that killed a Hezbollah fighter in Syria.



HUSSEIN MALLA/AP

Rescue workers help an injured man at the scene of an explosion that hit the seaport of Beirut, Lebanon, on Tuesday.

NATION

Officials: Vehicle malfunction sparked California wildfire

Associated Press

BANNING, Calif. — A wildfire in mountains east of Los Angeles that has forced thousands of people from their homes was sparked by a malfunctioning diesel vehicle, fire officials said Monday.

The vehicle spewed burning carbon from its exhaust system, igniting several fires Friday on Oak Glen Road in Cherry Valley, and authorities were asking anyone who may have seen such a vehicle at the time to contact investigators, according to a statement from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The blaze in Riverside County, among several wildfires across California, had consumed nearly 42 square miles of dry brush and chaparral since it broke out Friday evening, fire officials said.

As of Monday night, it was just 7% contained and the fire along with coronavirus precautions made for added stress at an evacuation center, said John

Medina, an American Red Cross spokesman.

Volunteers used to "close contact" with evacuees have had to adjust their approach during a time of social distancing, Medina said.

Bill Boehm helped his mother evacuate her home with her three horses and said the pandemic hasn't stopped people from coming together to assist each other. "Everyone seemed to be wearing masks and such, so that type of precaution was still going on," Boehm told KESQ-TV.

The blaze began as two adjacent fires in a rural area near the city of Beaumont, about 85 miles east of downtown Los Angeles.

Flames raced along brushy ridge tops and came close to houses while firefighters attacked from the ground and air. By nightfall, the flames were burning into the San Geronio Wilderness, where the brush was becoming sparse and limited the fire's intensity, according to Zach

Behrens, a spokesman for the San Bernardino National Forest.

Five buildings had at least one home, authorities said. One firefighter was treated for an injury and returned to work.

In Northern California, evacuations were ordered after a wildfire that sparked Sunday afternoon spread quickly and burned near homes near the East Park Reservoir in Colusa County. Complicating firefighters' efforts were temperatures in the area north of Sacramento that climbed to 98 degrees by Monday afternoon. The fire was 40% contained.

On California's central coast, a fire in San Luis Obispo County was 60% contained Monday after burning more than 2 square miles of brush east of the community of Santa Margarita. Two structures were destroyed but officials said it was unclear whether they were homes.



BRADLEY J. BOKER, JACKSON HOLE (WYO.) NEWS & GUIDE/AP

Teton County Sheriff Matt Carr and investigative Sgt. Clay Platt examine the southernmost of three balloons that crashed Monday during a flight near Teton Village, Wyo. The crashes injured more than a dozen people.

Up to 20 injured after 3 hot air balloons crash

Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Three sightseeing balloons crashed Monday in a popular Wyoming tourist destination, injuring as many as 20 people in what one passenger called a terrifying few minutes.

The balloons, owned by the same tour operator, went down separately near Jackson Hole and did not crash into each other, Teton County Sheriff Matt Carr said. The exact cause was under investigation, but the weather was apparently a factor, he said.

The crash was terrifying, balloon passenger Clinton Phillips told the Jackson Hole News & Guide.

"I couldn't believe how beautiful everything was," Phillips said. "And then we were in hell a few minutes later. It was crazy."

Passengers in one balloon carrying about 20 people tried des-

perately not to fall out, he said.

"It was lifting us up and slamming us back down again," Phillips said.

Another balloon carrying Robert Krayevski, 12, and his family was dragged across a field and crashed into a fence.

"Our captain fell off while we were in it," Robert told the newspaper. "We bounced and went back up in the air by ourselves. The captain was yelling to pull the red ropes. We tipped over and we had to get out because of possible fire."

The weather in Jackson Hole, near Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks, was partly cloudy with winds of 9 mph shortly after the accident.

All three balloons belonged to the Wyoming Balloon Co., Carr said. A call to the company rang through to a voice mailbox that was full.

Trump gives \$35M to organizations aiding survivors of human trafficking

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is awarding more than \$35 million in Justice Department grants to organizations that provide safe housing for survivors of human trafficking.

The grants were being announced Tuesday at a White House event attended by Attorney General William Barr, presidential adviser Ivanka Trump, other administration officials, survivors of human trafficking and or-

ganizations that serve them.

The \$35 million in Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Human Trafficking is being provided by the Office for Victims of Crime within the Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs to provide housing and services to human trafficking survivors.

The grants will be shared by 73 organizations in 33 states to provide anywhere from six to 24 months of transitional or short-term housing assistance to sur-

vivors, including to pay rent, utilities or related expenses, such as a security deposit, the White House said.

The money can also be used to help victims find permanent housing, get a job and receive occupational training and counseling.

Among organizations sharing the grants are Camillus House Inc. in Miami, Alternatives for Girls in Detroit and the Jordan Community Resource Center in Shaker Heights, Ohio.



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WORLD

'Inexperienced' US ambassadors draw nations' ire

Associated Press

REYKJAVIK, Iceland — In Iceland, a nation so safe its president runs errands on a bicycle, U.S. Ambassador Jeffery Ross Guter has left locals aghast with his request to hire armed bodyguards.

Guter has also enraged lawmakers by casually and groundlessly hitching Iceland to President Donald Trump's controversial "China virus" label for the novel coronavirus.

Not particularly diplomatic? Well, Guter is hardly a diplomat by training. He's a dermatologist. But he's also a contributor

to Trump's campaign, and that landed him the post in Reykjavik.

Guter's actions, and those of other politically connected U.S. ambassadors, highlight the risks that come with the peculiarly American institution of handing coveted diplomatic postings to campaign donors and presidential friends who have few other qualifications. The practice has increased under Trump.

"America is an extreme outlier in sending inexperienced and unqualified ambassadors," said Barbara Stephenson, a former career foreign service officer, ambassador to Panama and ex-president

of the American Foreign Service Association, the union that represents U.S. diplomats.

Presidential political supporters can make fine diplomats, and many have. A personal relationship with the president and understanding of his agenda can be an advantage. And those clearly unfit are expected to be weeded out through the Senate confirmation process. But still, some arrive in their embassies lacking the ability to sidestep controversy.

In Britain, Ambassador Robert "Woody" Johnson faces accusations he tried to steer golf's British Open toward a Trump resort

in Scotland and made racist and sexist comments.

In the Netherlands last week, Ambassador Peter Hoekstra, a former congressman, posted a photograph of himself visiting a cemetery for German soldiers killed during the two World Wars, including Nazi troops who occupied the country. Other ambassadors are running roughshod over their more experienced but less senior diplomatic staff.

What really raised eyebrows in Iceland was the embassy's ad looking for armed bodyguards. That was striking in a country that for 13 consecutive years has

been deemed the most peaceful country in the world, according to the Global Peace Index, published by the Institute for Economics & Peace.

Iceland's National Commissioner Sigríður Gudjónsdóttir told The Associated Press last week that police haven't decided whether to allow the armed bodyguards.

"We are still weighing the request and assessing the level of potential threat for foreign embassies in Iceland," she said. The State Department declined to comment.

Record temperatures add to Iraq's power troubles

Associated Press

BASRA, Iraq — In Iraq's oil-rich south, the scorching summer months pose painful new choices in the age of the coronavirus: stay at home in the sweltering heat with electricity cut off for hours, or go out and risk the virus.

This is Zain al-Abidin's predicament. A resident of al-Hartha district, in Basra province, al-Abidin lost his job due to pandemic-related restrictions. During the

day he listens helplessly to his four-month old daughter cry in the unbearable heat, too poor to afford private generators to offset up to eight-hour power cuts.

"I have no tricks to deal with this but to pray to God for relief," he said.

As temperatures soar to record levels this summer — reaching 125 degrees Fahrenheit in Baghdad last week — Iraq's power supply has fallen short of demand yet again, creating a spark for

renewed anti-government protests. Iraq has imposed a strict lockdown and 24-hour curfew. So families have to pump fuel and money into generators or, if they can't, suffer in stifling homes without air conditioning.

State coffers were slashed because of an economic crisis spurred by falling oil prices and the pandemic, leaving little for investment to maintain Iraq's aging electricity infrastructure.



NABIL AL-JURANI/AP

Yas Khudair, a street vendor, sells blocks of ice in Basra, Iraq, on Sunday.

Stripes

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation

944

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Reward offered after sticker put on bear

NC ASHEVILLE — A wildlife group in North Carolina is offering a \$5,000 reward to identify a person they said is responsible for putting a “Trump 2020” sticker on the collar of a bear.

“Bears are NOT Billboards!” Help Asheville Bears said on a Facebook post Friday while announcing the reward.

The group said they received pictures that showed the sticker on the animal in Asheville, a city about 274 miles west of Raleigh. The bear had been “trapped, tranquilized and collared unnecessarily,” the post said.

The Asheville Citizen-Times previously reported that a bear was found in the city last year with a similar sticker.

Baby elephant dies at zoo weeks after birth

MO ST. LOUIS — A baby elephant has died several weeks after it was born at the St. Louis Zoo.

Zoo officials said the Asian elephant calf named Avi was euthanized Sunday because he had developmental problems that limited his ability to feed. The zoo said Avi's condition had deteriorated quickly in recent days despite feeding assistance and in-travenous treatments.

Zoo President and CEO Jeffrey Bonner said everyone at the zoo is “just devastated right now” at the loss of Avi.

The calf was born July 6 to a 24-year-old Asian elephant at the zoo. The zoo's 27-year-old bull elephant was the father. An elephant pregnancy lasts about 22 months and a calf weighs between 250 and 350 pounds at birth.

Police: Man rode truck hood down highway

FL BOYNTON BEACH — A Florida man went for a nine-mile ride down a busy highway, but in a highly unusual fashion: on the hood of a tractor-trailer.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel reported that the unidentified man climbed onto the hood Saturday after stopping his vehicle along Florida's Turnpike and walking out onto the highway.

The Florida Highway Patrol said the tractor-trailer driver continued on down the road as the man clung to the hood and began pounding on the windshield with his fists and his forehead.

Eventually, a Highway Patrol trooper stopped the tractor-trailer and took the man into custody. He was committed for a 72-hour mental health evaluation under the state's Baker Act. No serious injuries were reported.

Man finds alligator swimming in his pool

AL MOBILE — An Alabama homeowner woke up to an unexpected visitor swimming in his pool: an alligator.

WALA-TV reported that Steven McCulland of Mobile recorded



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

The man in the moon

A man's silhouette is seen in the full moon Sunday in Kansas City, Mo. The Farmers' Almanac says August's full moon was traditionally called the **Sturgeon Moon** because the giant sturgeon of the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain were most readily caught in this time of year.

the unwanted guest on video and posted it on social media.

In the video, McCulland shows the alligator and sounds stunned as he says: “How is there an alligator in my pool, swimming around in my pool? What in the blue blazes is this?”

McCulland told the news station he had no idea how the alligator got into his backyard Friday, but he'll be double-checking now before entering the pool. The reptile eventually retreated to McCulland's fence line and a wildlife agent removed it.

Boat operators arrested after collision injures 3

WI OSHKOSH — Authorities have arrested two boat operators on suspicion of operating while intoxicated after their boats collided on Lake Butte des Morts in Oshkosh, injuring three people.

The crash happened around 9 p.m. Saturday. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office said a 26-foot Glastron boat with six people aboard was having mechanical problems and was traveling slowly toward Rainbow Park when it was struck by a 17-foot Lund boat heading in the same direction with two people aboard.

Three people were taken to hospitals with minor injuries. The damaged boats were still merged together from the impact when they were towed to shore.

Man arrested in failed kidnappings of women

OR SALEM — A man was arrested after police

THE CENSUS

\$200

ette produced and will be certified by General Motors Co. a museum official told the Bowling Green Daily News. The vehicle will look exactly like the first Corvette built in 1953 at the Bowling Green plant. The winner will be picked Sept. 4.

said he tried to kidnap women working at two drive-thru coffee stands, Salem Police detectives said Saturday.

Christopher Santibanez, 39, of Independence, visited two coffee stands in Salem around 5:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. July 25, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported. In both instances, he approached the women, displayed a handgun and demanded the employee leave with him, police said.

Both times, the employees were able to get away from him and call police.

The Human Bean, another nearby drive-thru coffee shop, reported a man attempting to get into their business the same day. Police believe it was the same man. They identified him using community tips, photographs and surveillance video.

Police charge officer with stealing firearms

MD ANNAPOLIS — Authorities in a Maryland county have arrested a police officer on burglary and theft charges involving stolen firearms and other property.

Anne Arundel County police announced in a news release late

The cost of a raffle ticket to win an arctic white coupe with a red interior from the National Corvette Museum in Kentucky. The museum is selling 1,500 tickets as part of its 26th anniversary celebration next month. It will be the 1.75 millionth Corvete produced and will be certified by General Motors Co. a museum official told the Bowling Green Daily News. The vehicle will look exactly like the first Corvette built in 1953 at the Bowling Green plant. The winner will be picked Sept. 4.

Saturday that Cpl. Jacob Miskill has been charged with first-, third- and fourth-degree burglary, theft and misconduct in office.

The five-year veteran of the department has been suspended without pay.

County police said officers were called to a report of an unintended death in April at a house in Pasadena, Md. On Friday, the police chief received information that Miskill may have stolen firearms and other property from the house. Police said investigators executed a search warrant at Miskill's house and subsequently arrested him.

Archaeologists find 100-year-old artifacts

GA ALBANY — Archaeologists have completed an excavation in a Georgia city that found century-old artifacts left behind by the African Americans who lived in homes that once stood there.

The dig in downtown Albany was done to learn more of the history of the Harlem neighborhood, where people had lived since at least 1885. WALB-TV reported people working on the project

found glass and clay marbles, buttons and bottles.

“We’re not just finding the bricks and nails and window glass from their structures, we’re finding a detailed record of their lives and we’re excited to tell that story,” said archaeologist Anne Dorland.

The site will soon be covered back up, and a new transportation center will be built at the location.

Bridge section damaged in accident demolished

AZ TEMPE — A 150-foot portion of a century-old bridge that was damaged in a train derailment and resulting fire in Tempe was demolished Sunday as part of the cleanup process.

Union Pacific Railroad officials said the demolished portion of the bridge will likely be cut into smaller pieces so it can be removed, and there isn't a timeline yet for when the bridge will be reconstructed.

Tempe Fire Department Assistant Chief Andrea Glass said the partial demolition involved putting charges around various parts of the bridge in addition to small incisions which allowed for the most damaged section of the bridge to drop below.

Glass said the detonation wouldn't impact the rest of the bridge and about 100 workers, mostly contractors, were working to clean up the derailment site.

From wire reports

FACES

New this week: Luke Bryan, 2 Seth Rogens

Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Music

Country superstar **Luke Bryan** is looking to his roots on his seventh album. The Georgia native's small-town values helped shape "Born Here Live Here Die Here," his new album out Friday. The album features the hits "Knockin' Boots," "What She Wants Tonight" and "One Margarita." The 10-song set is Bryan's first album since 2017's "What Makes You Country" and its release was delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Multi-platinum rapper **Amine** is releasing his sophomore album, "Limbo," on Friday. The album features the singles "Riri," "Shimmy" and the Young Thug-assisted "Compensating." Amine also turned heads this year, appearing on the fourth season of the hit HBO series "Insecure," which earned eight Emmy nominations last week.

— AP Music Editor Mesfin Pekadu

Movies

"American Pickle": Seth Rogen plays dual roles in this film about a man from the 1920s who falls into a vat of pickle juice, wakes up fully preserved 100 years later and gets a chance to know his great-grandson — a Brooklyn-based app developer. Part "Being There" meets "Kate & Leopold," part Rogen joint, "American Pickle" has a sweet heart and a few fun gags that'll make this a pleasant watch when it hits HBO Max on Thursday.

If you want to keep the warm feelings going, the good-natured "Peanut Butter Falcon" hits Amazon Video on Thursday. This lovely 2019 indie features Shia LaBeouf and newcomer Zack Gottsagen on a Huck Finn-type journey across North Carolina. It's a soulful performance from LaBeouf, but it's Gottsagen, who has Down syndrome who wins your heart as a young wrestling-obsessed man who is deter-



A&E/AP

Comedian Jeff Foxworthy examines the value of collectibles on the new series "What's It Worth?"

mined to be free.

"Howard": Lyricist Howard Ashman has been gone for almost 30 years, but his witty and nimble work lives on in the songs of "Little Shop of Horrors," "The Little Mermaid," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Aladdin." In this documentary streaming Friday on Disney+, director Don Hahn tells Ashman's story with the help of family, friends and collaborators and how he created some of his most iconic works while secretly battling AIDS.

— AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr

Television

Jeff Foxworthy, comedian and self-declared "avid collector of a lot of different stuff," is on a virtual treasure hunt in the new A&E series "What's It Worth?" which made its debut Tuesday. From the safety of his Georgia home's man cave, Foxworthy visits "everyday people" to check out their potentially valuable heirlooms, pop-culture keepsakes and such. Experts help determine whether the items have more than sentimental worth, while Foxworthy uncovers personal stories that A&E says can be "as impressive as the dollar value



Red Light Management

Luke Bryan gets back to his small-town roots on his seventh album, "Born Here Live Here Die Here," which will be released Friday after being delayed.

itself." Two back-to-back half-hours kick off the 10-episode run.

Of all the shows in all the world suitable for a pandemic, would too-close-for-comfort "Big Brother" be anywhere on the list? Nah. But that won't keep it from returning Wednesday on CBS with an "all-star" cast including past winners, finalists and, ahem, "legends." Contestants are being quarantined and tested for the coronavirus before entering their shared digs, face weekly tests and will avoid all contact with the crew, the network said. The game remains the same, with the housemates living together under the eye of cameras as they vie for a \$500,000 prize.

PBS' "Masterpiece" delivers comfort food with the return of "Endeavour," starring Shaun Evans as the Oxford-based British police detective. The three-episode run begins Sunday (check local listings for times) with Endeavour Morse marking the new year in Venice with a lovely companion while murder is afoot back home. Familiar characters this season include Dorothea Frazil, the newspaper editor played by Abigail Thaw — daughter of the late John Thaw, star of the original "Morse" series. More family connections: Molly-Mae Whitney, Abigail Thaw's daughter, plays a character based on her grandmother.

— AP Television Writer Lynn Elber

Roc Nation, university partner on entertainment school

Associated Press

Jay-Z's entertainment company is partnering with Brooklyn's CUNY and University to launch the Roc Nation School of Music, Sports & Entertainment.

The school will begin enrolling students for the fall 2021 semester, and 25% of the incoming freshman class will receive Roc Nation Hope Scholarships. Hope Scholars will graduate without any debt.

Jay-Z, a 22-time Grammy winner and entertainment mogul, was born and raised in Brooklyn. He launched Roc Nation in 2008 and the company has worked with some of the top players in music, including Rihanna, Alicia Keys, DJ Khaled, J. Cole, Megan Thee Stallion and Lil Uzi Vert. The company also partnered with the NFL and co-produced this year's Emmy-nominated halftime show with Shakira and Jennifer Lopez. Roc Nation Sports, founded in

2013, has worked with many athletes.

Roc Nation CEO Desiree Perez called the partnership with LIU "a true investment in our community and young people in Brooklyn, in New York City, and beyond." "We're excited that The Roc Nation School of Music, Sports & Entertainment will provide unique insight, knowledge and experiences for students and introduce the world to the next generation of unmatched talent," Perez said in a statement Tuesday.

The Roc Nation School of Music, Sports & Entertainment will offer undergraduate degrees in music, music technology, entrepreneurship and production, and sports management.

Wetv will end future work with Braxton

Wetv will honor Tamar Braxton's request to end future work together, but the network expects

to premiere the singer's reality show next month.

The network wished Braxton "nothing but the best" in a statement Monday. Her reality series called "Tamar Braxton: Get Ya Life!" was expected to premiere last week, but the show has been postponed to Sept. 10.

Braxton's request to end her future working relationship with Wetv comes after police confirmed they responded to a medical emergency July 16 at the downtown Los Angeles high rise that she calls home. She wrote about her career demands on the reality series being "excessive and unfair" in a recent social media post.

Reporter sues Globes group over rules

A Norwegian entertainment reporter on Monday sued the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the organization that gives out the

Golden Globe Awards, alleging that it acts as a cartel that stifles competition for its members.

Reporter Kjersti Flaas filed the lawsuit in federal court in Los Angeles, saying that despite reporting on Hollywood for many prominent Norwegian outlets, she has been repeatedly denied membership in the organization. Her suit contends the HFPA consistently rejects qualified new applicants like herself whose work competes with that of existing members.

The HFPA responded in a statement, saying the suit "seems consistent with Ms. Flaas's ongoing attempts to shake down the HFPA, demanding that the HFPA pay her off and immediately admit her prior to the conclusion of the usual annual election process applied to every other HFPA applicant. The HFPA has refused to pay ransom, telling Ms. Flaas that membership was not gained through intimidation."



AP

Jay-Z's entertainment company and Brooklyn's Long Island University will launch the Roc Nation School of Music, Sports & Entertainment.

Other news

■ Oprah Winfrey announced Tuesday she had chosen Isabel Wilkerson's exploration of race and hierarchy in the U.S., "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents," as her latest book club pick.

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OPINION

Biden should give Maduro reason to worry

By ELI LAKE

Bloomberg Opinion

One of the defining features of the Trump years has been the collapse of bipartisan consensus on foreign policy. There is at least one notable exception, however: support for a democratic transition in Venezuela.

When Juan Guaidó, the leader of Venezuela's national assembly and the man recognized by the U.S. and more than 60 other nations as the country's interim president, attended the State of the Union address in Washington this year, he received a standing ovation from Democrats and Republicans. The next day, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi saluted his courage. "We believe the plight of the people of Venezuela is a challenge to the conscience of the world," she said.

Democratic support for President Donald Trump's initial 2019 Venezuela policy — support for Guaidó and sanctions against President Nicolás Maduro — is particularly important now. In December, Venezuela is scheduled to hold a rigged election for the legislature that Guaidó now leads. If Joe Biden wins the U.S. election in November, he will have to decide how best to respond to what happens in Venezuela a month later.

Early signs are that he will do the right thing. Biden was the first Democratic presidential candidate in 2019 to support Guaidó as interim president, tweeting three weeks after Guaidó was recognized by Trump: "It is time for Maduro to step aside and allow a democratic transition."

Biden has been careful to say he does

not support "regime change" for Venezuela, the phrase used to describe the George W. Bush administration's approach to Iraq. But he has come close to endorsing the concept in substance. As he told the Americas Quarterly in March, Maduro "is a dictator, plain and simple, but the overriding goal in Venezuela must be to press for a democratic outcome through free and fair elections, and to help the Venezuelan people rebuild their country."

To be clear: The elections in December will not bring Venezuela closer to democracy. They will have the opposite effect of purging Maduro's opposition from the country's parliament. That's because the national assembly is supposed to choose the body for national elections. The country's supreme court usurped this power this year and appointed its own electoral commission of cronies. In addition, Venezuela's top court has also disqualified the leaders of most opposition parties.

Biden has not gotten into much detail on this matter. But Trump's special representative for Venezuela, Elliott Abrams, has. Speaking to reporters last week, he said the supreme court's recent shenanigans are "yet another demonstration that with Maduro still in power and in a position to manipulate the elections and their outcome, there can be no free and fair election in Venezuela."

Abrams and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo were clear last week that the U.S. does not support any kind of negotiation with Maduro, other than one over the terms by which he would leave power. That stands in contrast to Trump's musings in June that he may be open to meeting with

Maduro, undermining the policy his administration had been building for the past 18 months. For now at least, it appears that negotiations with Maduro are off the table.

So Biden has an opportunity. He would weaken the dictator's hand simply by saying that, if elected president, he would not recognize the outcome of the rigged election Maduro has planned for December.

Such a message would be particularly effective for two reasons, one having to do with interpersonal relations and the other with international relations. First, Biden's rejection of the upcoming elections could confirm Maduro's already paranoid impression that the former vice president has long sought his demise. Back in 2015, Maduro publicly accused Biden of fomenting regime change in Venezuela after meeting with leaders of Caribbean countries. At the time, Biden's office said Maduro's statements were an effort to distract Venezuelan citizens from the worsening political and humanitarian crisis in their country. Five years later, Biden could cause Maduro to doubt himself all over again.

Second, and more important, a statement about the elections would strengthen the resolve of Venezuela's neighbors that have supported Guaidó's elevation and Maduro's ouster. For Latin American countries that have followed Trump's lead, a faux election in December would be an attractive excuse to improve relations with Maduro's regime. Biden should make it clear now that if he wins, they will be expected to stay the course that Trump set in 2019.

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy.

The woeful state of unemployment insurance

By CHARLES LANE

The Washington Post

This time, Washington bailed out Main Street. Congress' multitrillion-dollar COVID-19 legislation contained tens of billions in aid for airlines and other large businesses. The Federal Reserve has helped out Wall Street with \$2 trillion in asset purchases so far. Yet three pillars of the federal economic response — enhanced unemployment insurance, direct payments to 160 million households and the Paycheck Protection Program for small companies — were meant to protect regular folks. And, to a remarkable degree, they have.

Even as the economy shrinks 9.5% between April and June (a 32.9% annual rate), and millions lost their jobs, disposable income is up more than 10%, due mainly to \$293 billion worth of direct payments to families and \$300 billion in enhanced unemployment insurance benefits.

Consequently, the expected household debt crisis has not materialized. Total credit card debt has fallen from \$900 billion in March to \$845 billion now, and fewer than 2% of accounts are past due. According to The Wall Street Journal. (Of course, shopping and dining out were impossible in many places.) As for mortgages, 30-day past-due accounts have spiked, according to CoreLogic, but "serious" delinquencies — 90 days past due or more — are at a 20-year low.

People are struggling; the poorest most of all. But it could have been far worse. This is as it should be. Government kudos on the people, essentially, to cease producing goods and services, and so it was up to government to shield them from financial disaster — in effect, to take individual and small-business debt onto the national balance sheet.

There is no immediate issue of "moral hazard"; the Main Street bailout does not reward speculative excess but compensates for imposed losses. Come to think of it, unemployment insurance, or UI, and direct payments during the pandemic have probably helped stabilize banks, too, since they have had less bad credit card and mortgage debt to write off.

Things could have been much better, however. The hastily devised federal response in March highlighted the woeful state of UI in the United States, still mostly patchwork of state laws, backed up by federal support, which includes dollars from Washington for extended benefits during severe recessions.

A typical state program offers 26 weeks of benefits, replacing about 40% of wages, but there is wide variation. North Carolina and Florida, for example, provide only 12 weeks each; in Hawaii, workers' average benefit replaces 55% of previous wages, while in D.C., the figure is 21%.

Many workers, especially low-wage workers with intermittent work histories, don't qualify at all. States have consistently underinvested in modern technology for processing new claims and delivering payments.

Congress and the states have gotten away with neglecting UI because, in recent years, the United States has been at full employment. And in fairness, the dramatic plunge to Great Depression-level unemployment rates was hardly an easily foreseeable contingency — or likely to be repeated.

Still, the most controversial issue right now — the \$600-a-week supplemental UI benefit Congress supplied — is an avoidable result of the system's inadequate wage replacement rates and underinvestment in technology. As I've noted to legislators in March, lawmakers intended to provide

states with enough money to maintain laid-off workers at 100% of previous wages. When Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia informed lawmakers that state computer systems could not handle such calculations, they adopted the \$600 flat rate as a second-best solution.

Now two-thirds of unemployment recipients make more money on UI than they would by working, a probable disincentive to go back to work — though how much of a disincentive is debatable, since there are still so few job openings. Certainly reverting to the \$200 per week through September, followed by enough federal money to fill in 70% of previous wages, up to \$500 per week.

Perhaps there will yet be a compromise in Congress between Democrats, who want to continue the \$600 supplement through January, and Republicans, who favor reversion to the \$200-per-week September, followed by enough federal money to fill in 70% of previous wages, up to \$500 per week.

The main point, however, is that lawmakers must even engage in this politically fraught discussion amid an unemployment crisis. It's not enough to let Congress tinker with UI reform. The goal should be a national standard, providing a consistent "automatic stabilizer," both for workers and the economy as a whole, that increases during hard times and ratchets back down as jobs return.

Wage replacement rates should be much more uniform across the country — and large enough to enable workers to shop for an appropriate position, given their skills, without discouraging work by exceeding previous earnings.

Reform will cost money, but as we are learning now, there is a price to be paid for neglecting the issue, too.

Washington Post editorial writer/columnist Charles Lane specializes in economic and fiscal policy.

OPINION

Like 1864's vote, 2020's should be held on time

By SIDNEY BLUMENTHAL
Special to The Washington Post

President Donald Trump, who regularly compares himself to Abraham Lincoln, has now created the greatest and most inadvertent contrast since he sat himself in a chair beneath Lincoln's foot at the Lincoln Memorial on May 4 to be interviewed by Fox News. He has previously claimed he has had better polling numbers than Lincoln; that his hero, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, drove Lincoln "crazy" through his victories on the battlefield; and that he, Trump, was treated worse than the assassinated martyr.

This week, Trump's bottonless neediness reached desperation with a frantic tweet pleading for a delay in the presidential election. That declaration of course lacks a basis in the Constitution and lies beyond his authority. It diminishes him to a nullity in the shadow of the 16th president, who amid the Civil War insisted: "We cannot have free governments without elections, and a Congress could force us to forgo, or postpone a national election, it might fairly claim to have already conquered and ruined us."

During what he called a "fiery trial," Lincoln never flinched. Facing what he thought was certain defeat in his reelection bid, he held to his course, come what may, maintaining his composure and insisting on the defense of democracy.

"You think I don't know I am going to be beaten, but I do, and unless some great change takes place, beaten badly," Lincoln confided to his friend Schuyler Hamilton, discussing his chances in the 1864 election. By the summer, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Overland Campaign had suffered enormous Union casualties and stalled in trench warfare. A radical third party led by the 1856 Republican nominee, John Fremont, had attracted the support of abolitionist luminaries such as Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony and Wendell



RICK BOWMER/AP

Gov. Gary Herbert walks through the rotunda of the Utah State Capitol to a COVID-19 briefing Thursday in Salt Lake City. He said the state has no intention of delaying the November election following President Donald Trump's suggestion on Thursday that increased mail-in voting due to the coronavirus pandemic would result in fraud.

Phillips, and threatened to split the Republican vote. The Democratic nominee, former Gen. George McClellan, who had been dismissed by Lincoln, was hostile to the Emancipation Proclamation. The Democratic Party convention had been taken over by its pro-Confederate, pro-peace wing of "Copperheads," who wrote a platform calling the war a failure, in effect demanding an armistice and recognition of the Confederacy.

Lincoln wrote a memo on Aug. 23: "This morning, as for some days past, it seems exceedingly probable that this Administration will not be re-elected. Then it will be my duty to co-operate with the President elect, as to save the Union between the election and the inauguration; as he will have secured his election on such ground that

he can not possibly save it afterwards." He folded and glued it closed and had his Cabinet members sign the document without allowing them to read their commitment to his plan for the worst-case scenario.

Given Lincoln's poor electoral prospects, some suggested that the election be postponed. Lincoln never considered such a possibility. Then on Sept. 3, a telegram arrived from Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman: "Atlanta is ours, and fairly won." With the victory at the Battle of Atlanta, the tide turned.

Two nights after Lincoln's reelection, on Nov. 10, 1864, the Lincoln Clubs of the District of Columbia marched to the White House to serenade him on his victory. A cannon was repeatedly fired in celebration. Then Lincoln appeared at a second-

floor window to speak to the cheering throng. It was his first occasion to make a statement about the meaning of the election at the most precarious moment in the nation's history. He did not preen in self-congratulation. He did not boast of his personal success. Instead, he chose to explain to the revelers why holding the election in the midst of the Civil War was the most important vindication of the purpose of the war to maintain American democracy.

"It has long been a grave question whether any Government not too strong for the liberties of the people can be strong enough to maintain its own existence in great emergencies," he said. "On this point the present rebellion brought our Republic to a severe test, and a Presidential election occurring in regular course during the rebellion, added not a little to the strain. If the loyal people, united, were put to the utmost of their strength by the rebellion, must they not fall when divided and partially paralyzed by a political war among themselves? But the election was a necessity."

Lincoln warned that "the strife of the election ... must ever recur in similar cases." He predicted that, in future and inevitably fractious contests, the full range of "human nature" would again be revealed under pressure: "In any future great national trial, compared with the men of this, we shall have as weak and as strong, as silly and as wise, as bad and as good."

Trump's cowardly panic fulfills the 16th president's observation that a national trial could expose the weak, silly and bad. And his grasping at the straw of an emergency largely of his own making, in an effort to evade the people's judgment, stands as his final, invidious comparison to Lincoln.

Sidney Blumenthal is the author of "All the Powers of Earth 1856-1860," the third of his five-volume biography, "The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln," and a former adviser to President Bill Clinton and to Hillary Clinton.

The case for Trump will come down to his strong record

By HUGH HEWITT
Special to The Washington Post

President Donald Trump's record of accomplishments is easy to compile.

Most significantly, he has brought the existential threat posed by the Chinese Communist Party into the sunlight. No more nice words. No more treating the Tiananmen Square massacre as a bug, not a feature. The light is on. Trump has put the issue on the table.

With huge help from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., Trump has put two justices on the Supreme Court, 53 judges on the federal courts of appeals, 144 and counting on the District courts, and more than 20 on the specialty courts. The Constitution has been buttressed.

Trump's tax cuts, along with the massive deregulation he orchestrated, led to 3.5% unemployment until the regime in Beijing acted with criminal recklessness toward a virus that has devastated the world. Economic recovery depends on those rule roll-backs, and not just grotesque rereactions such as the Clean Power Plan and the United States' rule, but on hundreds of other intrusions into the private businesses and onto the private property of Americans.

Trump took a military operation in President Barack Obama's last years at about \$600 billion and moved that budget by his third year to \$738 billion, with more

in the budget coming soon. The Navy necessary to meet China on the high seas, all 355 ships of it, is being planned and built.

Trump tore up the so-called Iran nuclear deal, which was a tower of absurd hopes built on a policy of appeasement and a foundation of hostility to Israel.

Trump moved the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and blessed Israel's necessary annexation of the Golan Heights. His peace plan is the closest to reality of any since Oslo.

Trump took the United States out of the unbalanced, absurd, doomed-to-fail Paris Climate Agreement and has instead focused on delivered American energy independence. People have real job security in Pennsylvania as a result, if not in getting off to Paris for follow-up seminars.

Trump ordered Iran's master terrorist, Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, killed, accomplished the complete physical destruction of the Islamic State caliphate and successfully hunted down its terrorist chieftain, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The former was never contemplated by Obama, the latter could not get done by him even though his scamping from Iraq in 2011 led to the rise of ISIS and its thousand barbarities. The Syrian butcher, Bashar Assad, has twice used chemical weapons and twice had cruise missiles remind him that the red line is back and is real. Russian mercenaries attacked U.S. troops in Syria and were mowed down. Not an American

was killed. Those are "Trump rules of engagement." Even Cuba is back in its box, joined there by Venezuelan dictator Nicolas Maduro.

At home, Trump pushed through the long-overdue justice reform legislation and the reorganization of Veterans Affairs, and this year, the Great American Outdoors Act that fully funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund. House Democrats passed a piffing bill when COVID-19 arrived, while Trump, McConnell and Senate Republicans advanced the innovative and massive Paycheck Protection Program that kept the U.S. economy from collapsing even as it contracted by nearly 10% in the second quarter as China's principal export, COVID-19, ravaged the country.

Trump's border wall, proceeding apace, makes obvious sense. More than 200 miles completed, with Trump tweeting Thursday the length with be 300 miles by September.

Trump got the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement. From dairy farms in Wisconsin to border businesses in Arizona, the USMCA was a huge win for the United States. Trump doesn't want to deport the "dreamers" and won't, but his deals with Mexico, El Salvador and Guatemala have helped stem a flow of illegal entries into the United States that Obama was helpless to halt.

While establishing himself as the most

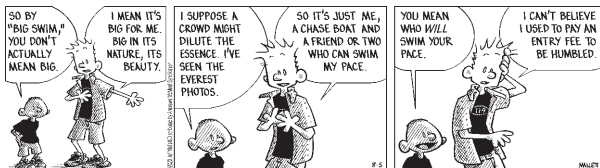
accessible-to-the-media president in modern times, Trump has also stripped off the veneer of objectivity from the "fake news." "Blue Bubble" journalists are the last to know the contempt in which they are held beyond the Acela corridor and outside Silicon Valley and Hollywood. They mistake their small audience share for success. In fact, most of America would rather watch a mystery poetry slam than their "news." Trump hammered that home, and journalists hate him for it. In turn, Blue Check Twitter confirms the contempt that "elites" feel for more than half of America.

Trump's bawling, slugfests, tempestuous approach to everything in every hour has worn down many, but his road is marked by these accomplishments. Former Vice President Joe Biden's near-50-year run in government is marked by ... well, you fill that in. Polls say Biden is far ahead. We shall see.

There's an aesthetic critique of Trump that has convinced elites that he must be beaten, that he is cruel and beneath the office. But Americans want their jobs and security back. They like the police. And, yes, most of the time they mostly admire Trump's style and, almost always, his results.

Hugh Hewitt hosts a nationally syndicated radio show on the Salem Network. The author of 14 books about politics, history and faith, he is also a political analyst for NBC, a professor of law at Chapman University Law School and president of the Nixon Foundation.

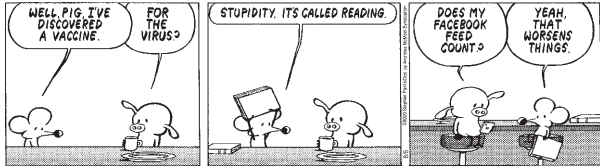
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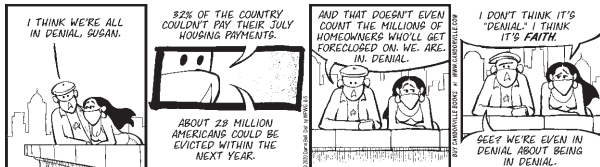
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



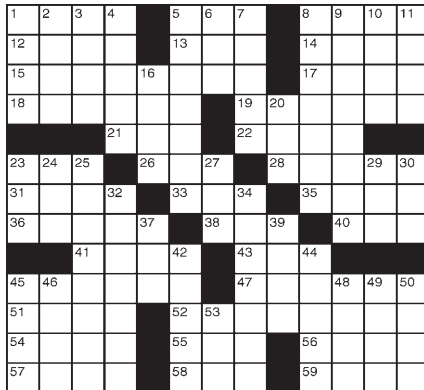
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Ore deposit
- 5 "The Simpsons" barkeep
- 8 IRS enforcer
- 12 Tend texts
- 13 Reply (Abbr.)
- 14 Anger
- 15 Reminder
- 16 Santa
- 17 Doctrines
- 18 Duplicity
- 19 Trit
- 21 Meadow
- 22 Frost lines
- 23 Favorite pal, in a text
- 26 Insult, slangily
- 28 Grind your teeth
- 31 First bed
- 33 Pouch
- 35 Scolding sounds
- 36 Scoped out
- 38 Globe
- 40 Chart-topping song
- 41 Locks
- 43 "Alley —"
- 45 Chinese meal beverage
- 47 Theater platforms
- 51 Airline to Tel Aviv
- 52 Plate holder
- 54 Ore source
- 55 — -de-France

DOWN

- 1 Lascivious
- 2 "Garfield" dog
- 3 Platter
- 4 Lucy's pal
- 5 Rum cocktails
- 6 Carry- (travel bags)
- 7 Bar legally
- 8 Neptune's spear
- 9 Hodgepodge
- 10 — mater
- 11 Tree home
- 16 Fibbon
- 20 Yule fuel
- 23 Abbr. in an email
- 24 Monk's title
- 25 Home aquarium
- 27 — Paulo
- 29 Enjoy the Alps
- 30 DDE predecessor
- 32 The Fab Four
- 34 Intersects
- 37 Conk out
- 39 The pair
- 42 CBer's device
- 44 Segments
- 45 Half (Pref.)
- 46 Lena of "The Reader"
- 48 Actor Sinise
- 49 Nobel Prize subj.
- 50 Terrier type
- 53 Sord

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-5

CRYPTOQUIP

IPZC JSQWV XSQ JZWW CPY
RSFYX CPZC AYSAWY EAYFV
SF PZIZDDZF VZFJY WYEESEF?

PQWZ RSSWZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU ARRANGED A BIG GROUP OF FOLKS BY HOW SPITEFUL THEY WERE, YOU COULD BE A RANCOR RANKER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals C

SCOREBOARD/PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball
MLB — Named Michele Meyer-Shipchiet People and Culture Officer.

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Added RHP Kyle Bradish, OF Ryan McKenna and LHP Bruce Zimmermann to the 60-man player pool and sent them to the alternate training site.
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Reinstated OF Nomar Mazara from the IL. Optioned C Terin Mercedes to the alternate training site. Transferred RHP Jimmy Lambert to the 60-man IL from the 10-day IL.

DETROIT TIGERS — Optioned RHP Beau Burrows to the alternate training site.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Optioned 1B Jared Walsh and CF Michael Hermosillo to the alternate training site.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Selected the contract of LHP Caleb Thielbar from the alternate training site. Optioned LaMonte Wade Jr. to the alternate training site.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Optioned RHP Brooks Kinsler to the alternate training site.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ATLANTA BRAVES — Sent RHP Shouly Chacin outright to the alternate training site.

CINCINNATI REDS — Optioned RF Aristides Aquino to the alternate training site. Activated 1B Rey Votto from the 10-day IL.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Activated LHP Brett Anderson from the 10-day IL. Optioned C Jacob Nottingham to the alternate training site. Recalled INFs Ryan Reay and Mark Mathias from the alternate training site. RHP Shelby Miller has opted out of the season.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Recalled RHP Enyel De Los Santos from the alternate training site. Optioned RHP Reggie Miller to the alternate training site.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Selected the contract of RHP Yadiel Rios from the alternate training site. Placed RHP Michael Polanco outright to the alternate training site.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Optioned RHP Jairo Domínguez from the 10-day IL. Selected the contract of Abraham Almonte from the alternate training site.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Signed RHP Andrew Triggs to the alternate training site. Recalled OF Jacob deGrom from the alternate training site.

National Football League

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed OL Jake Buzzeo, S Reggie Foye and WR Rashad Ross to the reserve/future-out list.

ATLANTA FALCONS — Signed CB Darrell Adams.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Waived TE Moritz Bohringer and RB Devwah Whaley. Placed DT Joshua Tupou on the reserve/future-out list.

CLEVELAND BEARS — Released OL Dino Boyd. Activated DT John Jenkins. Signed TE Eric Saubert from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed RB Jordan Lucas on the reserve/future-out list.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Activated P Jamie Gillan from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Released RB Brian Hogan. Activated TE Joseph from the PUP list. Placed OG Ben Gedeon on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

DETROIT LIONS — Activated TE Isaac Nauta from the reserve/COVID-19 list.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Released CB Jalen Morton and FB Elijah Wellman.

LAKERS — Waived DB Jordan Brown, TE Paul Butler and C Erik Magnusson. Signed RB Jaxson Hills.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Claimed CB Pikaisha Nelson Jr. off waivers from the Indians. Activated LB Jerome Baker from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed RB Malcolm Jenkins on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed general manager Stephen Jones to a one-year contract extension. Acquired in a trade from the Bears a 2021 first-round pick and a 2022 draft pick. Activated LB Anthony Barr from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Released RB David DeGroot from the PUP list. Waived RB Davion Davis from the reserve/COVID-19 list.

NEW ENGLAND SAINTS — Signed WR Josh Reynolds from the reserve/COVID-19 list.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Removed OG Alex Tugue from the reserve/future-out list.

NEW YORK JETS — Waived G Ben Brereton. Released G Brian Virtue.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Waived DB Damarious Randall. Signed S Curtis Modkins to a one-year contract.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed T Isaiah Wilson to a rookie contract. Activated T Andrew Whitworth from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Re-signed G Zac Kerin.

WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM — Waived DE Cameron Malmon, DB Maurice Smith and TE Caleb Wilson. Released RB Darius Brown. Announced that Josh Harris-Clemons has opted out of the 2020 season.

By DOUG FERGUSON

Associated Press

The PGA Championship in August seems familiar enough. That's the place at the end of the major championship season that it once occupied for the better part of 70 years when it was known as "Clory's Last Shot."

Now it's the first shot. It's one reminder just how much the COVID-19 pandemic, which shut down golf for three months, has led to a year like no other even for sports that have been able to resume. They can be seen, but they're not heard. Korry Haigh was reminded of that one week out from the 102nd PGA Championship at the TPC Harding Park.

Haigh is the chief championships officer for the PGA of America in charge of preparing the public course in San Francisco for the world's best players. He was in a cart one evening, driving the cypress-lined fairways to mark them for stakes and ropes. It's one of his favorite jobs. He considers it the finishing touch.

"To me, that's what makes a championship. Once you have the ropes and the stakes up, you have a stadium to perform," Haigh said, pausing before returning to the reality of the PGA Championship.

"Even if no one will be on the golf course."

Haigh has spent the last eight weeks playing in silence, with only the broadcast crew, photog-



ERIC RISSBERG/AP

Harding Park in San Francisco hosts the PGA Championship this week in the first major without spectators.

raphers, a few media, maybe a swing coach and a few neighbors if houses were on the perimeter of the course.

The stakes, however, were never this high.

Brooks Koepka will try to become the first player to win the PGA Championship three straight times in stroke play. Tiger Woods has a chance to join Jack Nicklaus and Walter Hagen as five-time PGA champions, and surpass Sam Snead for career PGA Tour victories if he can win No. 83. Jordan Spieth gets another crack at the career Grand Slam.

Maybe the PGA Championship should bring back another slogan that used to be the butt of jokes

and now might be a necessary refrain: "This is major." Without thousands of fans, without cheers coming from all corners of the course, how else would they differentiate this from any other tournament?

"We've experienced no fans, and that's been very unusual," said Webb Simpson, who won his lone major at the 2012 U.S. Open across the street from Harding Park at Olympic Club. "We're starting to get used to it. But I think next week will feel unusual again, being a major, when there's tens of thousands lining the fairways, 10 rows deep. We're used to that — every major has played out long in advance."

History: Koepka has shot at rare three-peat at PGA Championship

FROM BACK PAGE

Arnold Palmer. Ben Hogan. Harry Vardon.

The list of men who failed is much longer than the six who won the same major back-to-back-to-back.

That's why the biggest challenge facing Brooks Koepka as he goes for a third consecutive PGA Championship this week at the TPC Harding Park in San Francisco is more about history than his troublesome left knee and recent form.

"I don't want to play good golf. It's simple," Koepka said when he went to the Bay Area in February to preview a PGA Championship that was supposed to be held in May before the COVID-19 pandemic upended golf's calendar.

"You start thinking about all the things that could happen, that's when nerve, everything else kind of creeps in. Just stay in the moment and keep plugging along."

Koepka already has had one crack at a three-peat and showed why he can't be overlooked. Trying to become the first player in more than a century to win the U.S. Open three consecutive times, he chased Gary Woodland to the finish line at Pebble Beach and finished second.

Then it was all about Willie

'Walter Hagen is a name every golf fan knows.'

Anderson, the only player to win three successive U.S. Opens. Now it's about Walter Hagen, who won the PGA Championship four straight times (1924-27) when it was match play.

"Walter Hagen is a name every golf fan knows," Koepka said. "To even have a chance to put my name with his would be incredible and it would be super special. ... Two-time defending, it's a different feeling, and one you want to win this year."

Koepka won a thriller at Belvoir in 2018, when he set the PGA Championship scoring record at 264 and matched the low score at any major. He nearly broke a seven-shot lead last year at Bethpage Black before winning by two. It helped that he set the 36-hole record for all majors at 128 with what he calls the best golf he ever played.

This isn't the same player. Koepka had stem cell treatment after last season because of a partially torn patella. Two weeks later, he slipped on a wet slab of

concrete at the CJ Cup in South Korea and injured his left knee further, keeping him out for three months. Then he lost another three months to the pandemic.

He has gone a year without winning. Last week at the World Golf Championship, he said he is adjusting his swing to accommodate his left knee and Koepka had his best chance of winning, tied for the lead until hitting into the water off the tee on the final hole as Justin Thomas won.

For someone with this much history on the line, Koepka still has managed to avoid the spotlight in the weeks leading into the PGA Championship. Attribute that to the pandemic, and the PGA Tour's return to golf two months ago in which positive tests — eight so far — get as much attention as birdies and bogeys.

"We're in different times now," said Curtis Strange, part of the ESPN broadcast team who had his shot at three consecutive U.S. Opens in 1990. "All sports have been put on the back burner just

"It won't feel like a normal major."

There has been little anticipation in the weeks leading up to a major, especially considering it will have been more than a year — 382 days, to be precise — since the last one.

So much attention has been on following protocols — coronavirus tests when players arrive at a tournament, before they leave if they're on a charter, the regulations for positive tests with or without symptoms. Still on the horizon is the FedEx Cup playoffs and the \$15 million payoff, and two more majors (U.S. Open and Masters) before Thanksgiving.

Gone are the white scoreboards that define this major because it requires too many hands putting up names and numbers. Instead, there will be 10 video boards. Instead of tearing down the merchandise tent, Haigh said it has been converted into what might be the largest player locker room in a major.

Any player in the field can experience a life-changing moment of winning a major. All of them will have to do it without anyone cheering them along.

"You're not going to have fans and the atmosphere is not going to be what we're used to at a major championship," said Rory McIlroy, who won the Match Play at Harding Park five years ago. "But it's a major championship week."

It might look like one. It just doesn't sound like one.

a little bit. I haven't read a lot about it, and I've talked a couple times to reporters about this in a row. ... But it would be a hell of an accomplishment."

That much is clear by the fact that no one has done it in 64 years. And when Thomson won his third straight British Open in 1956, it had been 29 years since Hagen, whose streak came 22 years after Anderson's. The other three were from the 19th century — Bob Ferguson (1880-82), Jamie Anderson (1877-79) and Young Tom Morris (1868-70) — when only about 40 players competed in the British Open.

Tiger Woods has won at least three successive times at four PGA Tour events — three in a row at Firestone and Memorial, four in a row at Torrey Pines and Bay Hill. Just not in the majors.

The Masters is the one major no one has won three straight times, and Woods knew it after winning it in 2001 and 2002. He also knew the opportunity was rare. "If you're ever in that position, you want to take advantage of it because it doesn't happen all the time," he said.

In 2003, he went 21 holes before making his first birdie. He opened with a 76, his worst start in a major. And he never had another shot at three straight Masters.

Pro score

MLS is Back tournament

Semifinals
Wednesday, Aug. 5
Philadelphia vs. Portland
Thursday, Aug. 6
Orlando City vs. Minnesota United FC
Final
Tuesday, Aug. 11
Semifinal winners

MLB



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Braves starting pitcher Mike Soroka waits for assistance from the training staff after tearing his Achilles tendon in the third inning on Monday against the New York Mets.

Roundup

Mets beat Braves; Soroka out for year

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Jacob deGrom struck out a season-high 10 in six innings and the New York Mets snapped a five-game skid Monday night with a 7-2 victory over the Braves that was overshadowed by a season-ending injury to Atlanta ace Mike Soroka.

Soroka tore his Achilles tendon in the third inning as he took a step toward first to cover the base — a huge blow to the two-time defending NL East champions.

"There's no sugarcoating this night," Atlanta slugger Freddie Freeman said. "It stinks. It really does."

"When you lose, in my mind, one of the top pitching arms in this entire game for the whole season, it's pretty tough."

Robinson Cano had three RBIs before leaving the game himself — one of three New York infielders who went down with injuries.

Wilson Ramos added a two-run homer for the Mets, who avoided a four-game sweep and ended Atlanta's five-game winning streak.

Soroka (0-1) allowed three hits, walked four and wound up being charged with four earned runs in 2½ innings, the second-shortest outing of his career.

Yankees 6, Phillies 3: Gerrit Cole earned his 11th consecutive regular-season victory, leading host New York past Philadelphia.

Go Shiohara broke open the game with a three-run homer in the sixth.

Cole (3-0) allowed one run and five hits. He left after a 67-minute start lay ahead of the seventh.

Padres 5, Dodgers 4: Jake Cronenworth singled home the go-ahead run in the sixth inning for host San Diego, which beat the three solo home runs off Walker Buehler and beat Los Angeles.

Trent Grisham, Wil Myers and Fernando Tatis Jr. homered off Buehler.

Rockies 7, Giants 6: Nolan Arenado hit his first homer of the season to ignite a five-run sixth inning and host Colorado matched

its best start in franchise history by beating San Francisco.

The Rockies are 7-2 for the fifth time in team history. They also had that mark in 1995, '97, 2011 and '15.

Reds 3, Indians 2: Joey Votto hit a two-run, go-ahead homer; Nick Castellanos also connected and Cincinnati beat Cleveland.

Sonny Gray (3-0) shook off a tough start to complete six strong innings, and Cincinnati ended a six-game home losing streak against their in-state rival.

Twins 5, Pirates 4: Nelson Cruz's RBI single in the bottom of the ninth inning lifted host Minnesota over Pittsburgh for its fourth straight victory.

The Pirates lost their fifth consecutive game and have the worst record in the major leagues.

Cole Tucker homered on the first pitch of the night while batting leadoff for the first time in his career for Pittsburgh, which squandered a 4-0 lead.

Cubs 2, Royals 0: Kris Bryant homered in his return to the lineup and Alec Mills pitched seven effective innings, helping host Chicago beat Kansas City for its fourth consecutive win.

Javier Baez had a sacrifice fly and a nice play in the field as the NL Central-leading Cubs improved to 8-2 for the first time since 2016. Bryant also doubled in the first after missing two games with a stomach ailment.

White Sox 6, Brewers 4: Jose Abreu hit a tying, two-run homer in the seventh inning. Leury Garcia scored on a wild pitch in the eighth and Yoan Moncada added a solo shot in the ninth to lift visiting Chicago over Milwaukee.

The White Sox have won five straight, all on the road.

Athletics 11, Mariners 1: Ramon Laureano and Chad Pinder had two-run singles during visiting Oakland's big fifth inning against Seattle.

The Athletics scored eight times in the fifth inning, with all the runs coming with two outs.

Scoreboard

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	5	3	.625	—
Baltimore	3	5	.375	2½
Toronto	3	5	.375	2½
Tampa Bay	4	6	.400	4½
Boston	2	7	.290	5½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	8	2	.800	—
Chicago	5	5	.500	3
Detroit	5	5	.500	3
Marshall's	5	5	.500	3½
Kansas City	8	2	.800	5½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	6	4	.600	—
Houston	3	5	.375	2
Texas	3	5	.375	2
Seattle	4	7	.364	2½
Los Angeles	2	7	.290	3

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	2	1	.667	—
Miami	1	2	.333	1
Washington	3	4	.429	2
Philadelphia	2	3	.400	2½
New York	3	3	.500	3
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	8	2	.800	—
Cincinnati	4	4	.500	3
Milwaukee	3	4	.429	3½
St. Louis	2	3	.400	3½
Pittsburgh	2	3	.400	3½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Colorado	7	4	.636	—
Los Angeles	7	4	.636	—
San Diego	5	6	.455	3
San Francisco	5	6	.455	3
Arizona	4	7	.364	4½

Monday's games
Cincinnati 3, Cleveland 2
N.Y. Yankees 6, Philadelphia 3
Chicago Cubs 2, Kansas City 0
Milwaukee 5, Pittsburgh 6
Chicago White Sox 6, Milwaukee 4
N.Y. Mets 7, Atlanta 2
Colorado 7, San Francisco 6

Tuesday's games
San Diego 5, L.A. Dodgers 4
Cleveland at Cincinnati
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay
N.Y. Mets at Washington
Toronto at Atlanta
Chicago White Sox at Milwaukee
Kansas City at Chicago Cubs
San Francisco at Colorado
Houston at Arizona
Texas at Oakland
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego

Wednesday's games
Cincinnati at N.Y. Yankees
St. Louis at Detroit, 2 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Washington
Milwaukee 2, DP—New York
Minnesota at Pittsburgh
Cleveland at Cincinnati
Toronto at Atlanta
Chicago Cubs at Kansas City
Baltimore at Chicago White Sox
Houston at Arizona
Rays at Oakland
L.A. Angels at Seattle
Seattle at Washington
San Francisco at Colorado
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego

Monday
Mets 7, Braves 2
New York
Nimmo c 4 1 0
Alonso 1 0 0
Dozier 2 0 0
Davis 5 0 0
Smith 1 0 0
Cordell c 1 0 0
Barnes 1 0 0
Gimre 3 0 0
Guillorme 3 0 0
Total 34 7 9
Total 004 120 000—2
Total 000 020 000—2

Yankees 6, Phillies 3
New York
Gerrit Cole 5 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Gerrit Cole 5 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Total 34 7 9
Total 004 120 000—2
Total 000 020 000—2

Padres 5, Dodgers 4
San Diego
Manny Machado 2 0 0
Freddie Freeman 1 0 0
Gerrit Cole 5 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Total 34 7 9
Total 004 120 000—2
Total 000 020 000—2

Rockies 7, Giants 6
New York
Gerrit Cole 5 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Gerrit Cole 5 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Total 34 7 9
Total 004 120 000—2
Total 000 020 000—2

Twins 5, Pirates 4
Minnesota
Kirby Smart 4 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Gerrit Cole 5 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Total 34 7 9
Total 004 120 000—2
Total 000 020 000—2

Cubs 2, Royals 0
Chicago
Manny Machado 2 0 0
Freddie Freeman 1 0 0
Gerrit Cole 5 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Total 34 7 9
Total 004 120 000—2
Total 000 020 000—2

Athletics 11, Mariners 1
Oakland
Manny Machado 2 0 0
Freddie Freeman 1 0 0
Gerrit Cole 5 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Total 34 7 9
Total 004 120 000—2
Total 000 020 000—2

White Sox 6, Brewers 4
Chicago
Manny Machado 2 0 0
Freddie Freeman 1 0 0
Gerrit Cole 5 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Total 34 7 9
Total 004 120 000—2
Total 000 020 000—2

Reds 3, Indians 2
Cincinnati
Manny Machado 2 0 0
Freddie Freeman 1 0 0
Gerrit Cole 5 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Total 34 7 9
Total 004 120 000—2
Total 000 020 000—2

Padres 5, Dodgers 4
San Diego
Manny Machado 2 0 0
Freddie Freeman 1 0 0
Gerrit Cole 5 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Total 34 7 9
Total 004 120 000—2
Total 000 020 000—2

Rockies 7, Giants 6
New York
Gerrit Cole 5 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Gerrit Cole 5 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Total 34 7 9
Total 004 120 000—2
Total 000 020 000—2

Twins 5, Pirates 4
Minnesota
Kirby Smart 4 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Gerrit Cole 5 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Total 34 7 9
Total 004 120 000—2
Total 000 020 000—2

Cubs 2, Royals 0
Chicago
Manny Machado 2 0 0
Freddie Freeman 1 0 0
Gerrit Cole 5 0 0
Jacob deGrom 3 0 0
Shane Bieber 2 0 0
Total 34 7 9
Total 004 120 000—2
Total 000 020 000—2

E-McCann (1), DP—Chicago 1, Milwaukee 1, LOB—Chicago 10, Milwaukee 2B—Moncada (3), Grandal (2), Welch (1), A.Garcia (3), Gamel (1), Huijra (1), Hicks (1), LOB—Chicago 3B—Robert (2), S.F.—Grandal (2).

Chicago
Pitcher 2 3 1 1 0 1 0
Fry, H. 1 0 0 0 0 0 1
Cishek, BS, 0-1 3 1 1 0 0 0 3
Cishek, W, 1-0 1 1 0 0 0 0 3
Marshall, S, 1-0 1 1 0 0 0 0 3
Moncada, S, 2-2 1 1 0 0 0 1 1

Philadelphia
Pitcher 3 5 2 2 0 2 0
Phillips, L, 1-1 3 1 1 1 0 2
Knebel 1 1 0 0 0 0 1
Yardley 1 1 0 0 0 0 1
Cishek pitched to 4 batters in the 6th, Phillips pitched to 5 batters in the 8th.

HPB—Anderson (Engel), Cishek (Pina), WP—Detwiler, Phelps, T—3-43.

Rockies 7, Giants 6

San Francisco				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Yastrzemski c 4 1 2	Dahl c 3 0 1 1			
Dickerson rf 5 1 2	Story ss 1 0 0			
Solano 2b 4 0 1	Blickman rf 4 1 1 0			
Belt 1b 4 0 1	Arenado 3b 4 1 1 0			
Monaghan 3b 4 0 1	Murphy 2b 4 0 1 0			
Flores dh 3 1 2	McMahon 2b 4 0 1 0			
Ward 2b 3 1 2	Kemp dh 3 1 2 0			
Tromp c 3 1 2	Owings lf 4 2 2 1			
Sandoval ph 1 0 0 0	Walters c 4 0 1 0			
Slater pr 1 0 0 0				
Total 34 7 9	Total 34 7 10 6			

San Francisco
E—Longoria (1), Dickerson (1), McMahon (1), DP—San Francisco 2B—Arenado (2), LOB—San Francisco 5, Colorado 5, 2B—Flores (1), S.F.—McMahon (1), HPB—Tromp (2), Yastrzemski (1), Grandal (2), Arenado (1), Owings (1), S.F.—Tromp (1).

San Francisco
Pitcher 3 5 3 3 3 3 3
Peralta, L, 1-1, BS, 0-1 1 0 0 0 0 0 1
Garcia 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1
Baragar 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1
Sanderion 1 1 1 1 0 0 3

Colorado
Pitcher 3 5 3 3 3 3 3
Dickerson 3 5 3 3 3 3 3
Kinsley, W, 1-0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1
Estevan, S, 1-0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1
J.Diaz, S, 2-2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

HPB—Tromp (2), Yastrzemski (1), Grandal (2), Arenado (1), Owings (1), S.F.—Tromp (1).

Twins 5, Pirates 4
Pittsburgh
Tucker c 4 1 1
Newman 2b 4 0 1
Belt 1b 4 0 1
Osuna dh 4 0 0
Hendrix 3b 4 0 0
Evans 3b 4 0 0
Hendrix 3b 4 0 0
Stallings c 4 0 1
Gonzalez ss 4 0 1

Minnesota
Pitcher 4 1 1
Garver c 3 1 0
Arreaz 2b 4 0 1
Cruz dh 4 0 0
Sano 1b 4 0 0
Gonzalez 3b 4 0 0
Hendrix 3b 4 0 0
Buxton c 3 0 0
Arenado 3b 3 0 0
Polanco ph 3 0 0

Pittsburgh
Pitcher 4 1 1
Garver c 3 1 0
Arreaz 2b 4 0 1
Cruz dh 4 0 0
Sano 1b 4 0 0
Gonzalez 3b 4 0 0
Hendrix 3b 4 0 0
Buxton c 3 0 0
Arenado 3b 3 0 0
Polanco ph 3 0 0

Minnesota
Pitcher 4 1 1
Garver c 3 1 0
Arreaz 2b 4 0 1
Cruz dh 4 0 0
Sano 1b 4 0 0
Gonzalez 3b 4 0 0
Hendrix 3b 4 0 0
Buxton c 3 0 0
Arenado 3b 3 0 0
Polanco ph 3 0 0

Pittsburgh
Pitcher 4 1 1
Garver c 3 1 0
Arreaz 2b 4 0 1
Cruz dh 4 0 0
Sano 1b 4 0 0
Gonzalez 3b 4 0 0
Hendrix 3b 4 0 0
Buxton c 3 0 0
Arenado 3b 3 0 0
Polanco ph 3 0 0

Minnesota
Pitcher 4 1 1
Garver c 3 1 0
Arreaz 2b 4 0 1
Cruz dh 4 0 0
Sano 1b 4 0 0
Gonzalez 3b 4 0 0
Hendrix 3b 4 0 0
Buxton c 3 0 0
Arenado 3b 3 0 0
Polanco ph 3 0 0

Pittsburgh
Pitcher 4 1 1
Garver c 3 1 0
Arreaz 2b 4 0 1
Cruz dh 4 0 0
Sano 1b 4 0 0
Gonzalez 3b 4 0 0
Hendrix 3b 4 0 0
Buxton c 3 0 0
Arenado 3b 3 0 0
Polanco ph 3 0 0

Minnesota
Pitcher 4 1 1
Garver c 3 1 0
Arreaz 2b 4 0 1
Cruz dh 4 0 0
Sano 1b 4 0 0
Gonzalez 3b 4 0 0
Hendrix 3b 4 0 0
Buxton c 3 0 0
Arenado 3b 3 0 0
Polanco ph 3 0 0

Pittsburgh
Pitcher 4 1 1
Garver c 3 1 0
Arreaz 2b 4 0 1
Cruz dh 4 0 0
Sano 1b 4 0 0
Gonzalez 3b 4 0 0
Hendrix 3b 4 0 0
Buxton c 3 0 0
Arenado 3b 3 0 0
Polanco ph 3 0 0

Minnesota
Pitcher 4 1 1
Garver c 3 1 0
Arreaz 2b 4 0 1
Cruz dh 4 0 0
Sano 1b 4 0 0
Gonzalez 3b 4 0 0
Hendrix 3b 4 0 0
Buxton c 3 0 0
Arenado 3b 3 0 0
Polanco ph 3 0 0

Pittsburgh
Pitcher 4 1 1
Garver c 3 1 0
Arreaz 2b 4 0 1
Cruz dh 4 0 0
Sano 1b 4 0 0
Gonzalez 3b 4 0 0
Hendrix 3b 4 0 0
Buxton c 3 0 0
Arenado 3b 3 0 0
Polanco ph 3 0 0

Minnesota
Pitcher 4 1 1
Garver c 3 1 0
Arreaz 2b 4 0 1
Cruz dh 4 0 0
Sano 1b 4 0 0
Gonzalez 3b 4 0 0
Hendrix 3b 4 0 0
Buxton c 3 0 0
Arenado 3b 3 0 0
Polanco ph 3 0 0

Pittsburgh
Pitcher 4 1 1
Garver c 3 1 0
Arreaz 2b 4 0 1
Cruz dh 4 0 0
Sano 1b 4 0 0
Gonzalez 3b 4 0 0
Hendrix 3b 4 0 0
Buxton c 3 0 0
Arenado 3b 3 0 0
Polanco ph 3 0 0

Yankees 6, Phillies 3

Philadelphia				
	W	L	Pct	GB
McCutchen lf 5 0 1	LeMahieu 2b 4 1 0			
Hoskins 1b 4 0 0	Judge rf 4 1 0			
Harper rf 4 0 0	Hicks c 4 1 0			
Reamund c 4 1 0	Ryan 3b 4 1 0			
Gosselin ph 4 0 0	Ford 1b 3 0 0			
Seigler 3b 2 1 1	Usher 3b 4 1 1			
Brace dh 2 1 1	Sanchez 2b 4 1 1			
Kintner 3b 3 0 1	Gardner lf 3 1 1			
Seasey c 3 0 1	Gardner lf 3 1 1			
Gosselin ph 1 0 0	Wade ss 3 0 0			
Total 34 7 9	Total 34 8 6			

Philadelphia
DP—Philadelphia 2, New York 1, LOB—Philadelphia 1, New York 2, 2B—Judge (1), Hicks (1), HR—Brace (1), LeMahieu (1), Gardner (1), Usher (2), SB—Stanton (0).

Philadelphia
Arrieta, L, 0-1 5 7 3 3 0 4
Guerra 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
Moran 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
Huntor 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
Alvarez 1 0 0 0 0 0 0

New York
Cole, W, 2-0 6 5 1 1 1 4
Kriske 1 1 1 1 2 0
Green, H, 1 0 0 0 0 0
Avian 1 2 1 0 2
Britton, S, 2-3 1 0 0 0 0
HPB—Guerra (Stanton), WP—Arrieta, Green, T—3-00.

Reds 3, Indians 2

Cleveland				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Ramirez 2b 4 0 1	Akyma c 3 1 1 2			
Hernandez 3b 4 0 0	Votto 1b 3 1 2			
Goetz 1b 4 0 0	Goetz 1b 4 0 0			
Santana 1b 3 0 1	Moustks 2b 3 0 0			
Reyes dh 4 0 0	Suarez 3b 3 0 0			
Winker lf 4 0 0	Winker lf 4 0 0			
Mercado c 3 1 1	Jankowski c 3 0 0			
Leon c 2 0 0	Leon c 2 0 0			
Allen lf 2 0 0	Colon dh 3 0 0			
Total 30 25 1	Total 30 25 1			

AUTO RACING/COLLEGE FOOTBALL/NFL

Penske reverses course: No fans at Indy 500

By JENNA FRYER

Associated Press

Roger Penske has reversed course and decided not to allow fans at the Indianapolis 500 later this month. The 104th running of "The Great American Race" will be the first without spectators, who showed up at Indianapolis Motor Speedway every year, even during the Deep Depression.

It was a flip for Penske, who purchased the iconic speedway in January and has spent every day since upgrading his new show place to prepare for his favorite race. The pandemic forced the race to change dates for the first time, from Memorial Day weekend to Aug. 23.

Penske had initially said he wouldn't run the 500 without fans. But as the pandemic continued to spread across the nation, the decision was made to limit capacity to 50%. The speedway then lowered that number to 25% and presented an 88-page manual on how to safely host spectators.

Cases have continued to rise — steadily in Indiana and specifically in Marion County, where the speedway is located — and Penske told The Associated Press on Tuesday the reversal on the spectator policy was "the toughest business decision I've ever made in my life."

"We didn't buy the Speedway for one year, we bought it for generations to come, and it's important to our reputation to do the right thing," Penske said in a telephone interview.

He said the financial ramifications of not hosting spectators — which even at 25% capacity, the mammoth facility could have held about 80,000 people — played no part in his decision. Rather, the continued increase of COVID-19 cases in Marion County made shutting out spectators the responsible decision.

"We need to be safe and smart about this," Penske said. "Obviously we want full attendance, but we don't want to jeopardize the health and safety of our fans

and the community. We also don't want to jeopardize the ability to hold a successful race."

As part of the plan introduced two weeks ago for 25% of fan capacity, spectators who had purchased badges that granted them access to the garage and pit lane was going to be permitted, as well as infield access. Although the speedway, which can hold at least 350,000 spectators, has the space for social distancing, Penske did not want to put fans or competitors at risk.

The situation was compounded last week when IU Health, the state's largest health care system and a partner of Indianapolis Motor Speedway, said it opposed fans attending the 500.

"Until we sustain better control of this virus and its spread," IU Health said in a statement, "we strongly encourage IMS to consider an alternative to running the Indy 500 with fans in August."

The letter blindsided speedway officials, who had worked with health officials on the compre-

hensive safety plan that included mandatory wearing of masks at all times inside the speedway.

IU Health said it "appreciates" the speedway's safety plan, but risks remained too high to host a large cluster of fans.

"We have concerns about the risks of infection beyond the scope of the IMS plan, including social gatherings, travel, restaurants, bars, accommodations and other event-related activities," IU Health said. "This could lead to a spike in COVID-19 infections as we continue to see cases and hospitalizations increase every day."

Penske said the IU Health letter was "disappointing" but did not force his hand. Instead, it simply came down to metrics of how the coronavirus is spreading through Indiana.

"The number of cases in Marion County has tripled while the positivity rate has doubled. We said from the beginning of the pandemic we would put the health and safety of our community first, and while hosting spectators at a

limited capacity with our robust plan in place was appropriate in late June, it is not the right path forward based on the current environment," the speedway said in a statement.

The first inkling that Penske's group was waffling came Monday when the speedway confirmed to the AP that the opening day of practice scheduled for next Tuesday had been scrapped. The first day of practice will now be Aug. 12. The only other change to the schedule right now is the elimination of the Pit Crew Competition traditionally held on Carb Day, two days before the race.

The pandemic has obliterated the IndyCar schedule, with the series shutting down just two days before its March 15 scheduled season-opener. The schedule has undergone numerous alterations since, with a West Coast swing to Portland and Laguna Seca canceled last week and doubleheaders added to Mid-Ohio, Gateway in St. Louis and the road course at Indianapolis.

Big 12 OKs 1 nonconference football game

By RALPH D. RUSSO

Associated Press

Big 12 schools agreed Monday night to play one nonconference football game this year to go along with their nine league contests as plans for the pandemic-altered 2020 season continued to fall into place.

The Big 12's university presidents signed off on a 10-game schedule, adjusted to deal with potential disruptions from COVID-19 that lets schools play one nonconference opponent at home. A specific start date for conference play was not determined. The conference said in a news release it will likely begin mid-to-late September and the expectation is nonconference games will be completed before league play starts.

"We believe this change provides the best opportunity going forward," Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said in a statement. "However, we will undoubtedly need to be flexible as we progress through the season in order to combat the challenges that lie ahead."

The Big 12 championship game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, is scheduled for Dec. 5, but could be moved back to Dec. 12 or 19, the league announced. Dec. 19 could pose a scheduling conflict with high school football championships at the Dallas Cowboys' stadium and force the Big 12 to relocate.

The 10-team Big 12 already plays a nine-game, round-robin conference schedule. Unlike other Power Five conference that have switched to either exclusively (Big Ten, Pac-12 and SEC) or mostly (ACC) league games, the Big 12 could not add more conference games without teams playing each other more than once.

Several Big 12 teams have already started preseason practice, with Kansas and Oklahoma slated to play FCS teams on Aug. 29. Whether those games remain on that date is unclear.

As conferences take steps toward a foot-



JEFFREY McWHORTER/AP

Oklahoma head coach Lincoln Riley hoists the Big 12 Conference championship trophy after defeating Baylor 30-23 on Dec. 7. The Big 12 plans to play a 10-game schedule this season, with the first game being against a nonconference opponent.

ball season that seems to be in precarious shape because of the pandemic, the NCAA was expected to weigh in Tuesday on fall sports other than major-college football.

The association's Board of Governors was scheduled to meet and the decision whether to cancel or postpone NCAA championship events in fall sports such as soccer, volleyball and lower-level football was expected to be a topic.

Less than two weeks ago, conference commissioners across Division I encouraged the board to delay any decision on fall championships. The NCAA does not control regular season competition in any sport — and it has no say at all in major college football — but canceling or postponing fall events could send a conflicting message as member schools try to move forward with a fall season, despite concerns about the number of COVID-19 cases around much of the country.

The Power Five conferences have billions in television revenue at stake in their ability to stage a football season, and they have decided independently the best way forward is to focus on conference play.

Though there are still plenty of details to work out, the Big 12 has a full football sched-

ule with matchups and dates in place among Power Five conferences. The Pac-12 will begin Sept. 26, along with the Southeastern Conference, which is still working on its own 10-game slate.

The Atlantic Coast Conference has opponents set for its 10-game conference schedule and will start the weekend of Sept. 12, but no specific game dates are set. The ACC has also said it will permit its teams to play one nonconference game in its home state.

The Big Ten, first to announce intentions to go conference-only this season, has yet to release a new schedule, but that could come later this week.

Now that the Power Five has declared its intentions, the Group of Five conferences can start making plans and filling holes on their schedules — maybe with Big 12 or ACC teams.

American Athletic Conference Commissioner Mike Aresco has said the AAC could stick with its eight-game conference schedule and let its members play as many of their four nonconference games as they can salvage or replace.

The Mountain West, Conference USA, Mid-American and Sun Belt conferences are likely to take a similar approach.

Thursday is the deadline for NFL players to opt out

By BARRY WILNER

Associated Press

NFL players who decide to opt out of the coming season must do so by Thursday afternoon, a person familiar with the agreement between the league and the players told The Associated Press.

There also are opt-out provisions for players who experience emergency or extenuating circumstances during the season due to the coronavirus, the person said, speaking to the AP on the condition of anonymity Tuesday because the changes to the collective bargaining agreement have not been made public.

Those provisions would cover a player with a severe family situation related to COVID-19 or if he is diagnosed with a high-risk condition after Thursday's deadline.

Any player who opts out and is in the high-risk category will receive a \$350,000 stipend for 2020, with his contract paused. Players in the voluntary opt-out category will get \$150,000 in the form of an advance.

Another person with direct knowledge of the agreement between the league and the players' union said that relief in the 2020 salary cap is being provided to the 32 teams.

If a player opts out, his contract is paused for a season. Any signing bonus that was being applied to the salary cap in 2020 now will be delayed a year.

So, if a player signed a four-year contract with a \$16 million signing bonus, the bonus normally would be applied against the cap at \$4 million per season for four years. But the \$4 million for 2020 will not be applied for another year, even though the player has collected his full bonus.

Already, some four dozen players have opted out of playing due to the pandemic. By not applying any signing bonuses to 2020, several million dollars could be freed up for signing newer players. That gives teams more flexibility should players contract the coronavirus and be unavailable.

Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis, right, is fouled by Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert, left, during the Lakers' 116-108 win Monday in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Lakers clinch top seed in West

Hitchell, UTA	63	560	249	1525	24.2
Ikam, TOR	53	459	220	1253	23.6
atum, BOS	59	499	225	1390	23.6
icCollum, POR	62	549	123	1395	22.5
eRoza, SAS	61	503	338	1352	22.2
iggins, GSW	54	437	190	1175	21.8

NHL Kucherov lifts Lightning to shootout win

Tampa Bay tops Washington, 3-2

Associated Press

TORONTO — Nikita Kucherov scored a goal in the first period and the winner in the shootout to help the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Washington Capitals 3-2 on Monday in Eastern Conference round-robin play.

The teams played 5 minutes of 3-on-3 overtime before going to a shootout because the games for seeding follow regular-season rules. Tampa Bay's win puts it in a tie with Philadelphia at two points apiece in the Eastern Conference race, while Washington is third with one and Boston fourth with zero.

"All around, I thought that was a playoff game," Lightning winger Patrick Maroon said. "Obviously we're trying to get as many points as we can to seed ourselves in a good position."

Tampa Bay goaltender Andrei Vasilevsky stopped two of the three Capitals players he faced in the shootout after making 31 saves in regulation and overtime.

Before OT, Capitals winger Tom Wilson and Lightning center Anthony Cirelli exchanged words

and shoves at the third-period buzzer. These teams can't meet again until at least the second round, if not the East final.

"We were in their face," Maroon said. "That was the kind of team we need to be, just to have the mentality to push back and not let them run around."

After Kucherov's goal opened the scoring, Mitchell Stephens made it 2-0 Lightning in the second. Washington followed its regular-season blueprint by digging out of a hole and tying it on goals by Richard Panik and Evgeny Kuznetsov before intermission.

"We were down 2-0 and we came back, so we showed our character," Panik said. "Just from now on bring the 'A' game, bring our physicality and I think we're going to be good."

Captain Alex Ovechkin played more than 21 minutes and put three shots on net. Asked how he felt, this season's co-Rocket Richard Trophy winner put the focus on his team and what's ahead.

"We know we can play better," Ovechkin said. "It's kind of a wake-up call."



FRANK GUNN, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Tampa Bay goaltender Andrei Vasilevsky makes a save on Washington Capitals left wing Carl Hagelin during the Lightning's 3-2 shootout win Monday in Toronto.

Scoreboard

Stanley Cup qualifiers

(Best-of-five)
OFF SEEDING
EASTERN CONFERENCE
AT Toronto
Carolina 2, N.Y. Rangers 0
Carolina 3, N.Y. Rangers 1
Tuesday: N.Y. Rangers vs. Carolina
X-Thursday: N.Y. Rangers vs. Carolina
X-Friday: Carolina vs. N.Y. Rangers
N.Y. Islanders 1, Florida 0
N.Y. Islanders 2, Florida 0
Tuesday: N.Y. Islanders vs. Florida
Wednesday: Florida vs. N.Y. Islanders
X-Friday: Florida vs. N.Y. Islanders
X-Sunday: N.Y. Islanders vs. Florida
Montreal 1, Pittsburgh 1
Montreal 3, Pittsburgh 2, OT
Monday: Pittsburgh 3, Montreal 1
Wednesday: Montreal vs. Pittsburgh
Friday: Montreal vs. Pittsburgh
X-Saturday: Pittsburgh vs. Montreal
Columbus 1, Toronto 0
Columbus 2, Toronto 0
Tuesday: Toronto vs. Columbus
Thursday: Columbus vs. Toronto
X-Friday: Columbus vs. Toronto
X-Sunday: Toronto vs. Columbus

ROUND ROBIN
(determines playoff seeding)
Philadelphia 4, Boston 1
Monday: Tampa Bay 3, Washington 2, SO
Wednesday: Boston vs. Tampa Bay
Thursday: Philadelphia vs. Washington
X-Friday: Washington vs. Tampa Bay
X-Saturday: Tampa Bay vs. Philadelphia

WESTERN CONFERENCE
AT Edmonton
Chicago 1, Edmonton 1
Monday: Edmonton 6, Chicago 3
Wednesday: Chicago vs. Edmonton
Friday: Chicago vs. Edmonton
X-Saturday: Edmonton vs. Chicago
X-Sunday: Chicago vs. Edmonton
Chicago 1, Winnipeg 1
Monday: Winnipeg 3, Calgary 2
Tuesday: Winnipeg 1, Calgary 1
Thursday: Winnipeg vs. Calgary
X-Friday: Calgary vs. Winnipeg
Arizona 1, Nashville 0
Arizona 4, Nashville 3
Tuesday: Nashville vs. Arizona
Wednesday: Arizona vs. Nashville
X-Friday: Arizona vs. Nashville
X-Saturday: Nashville vs. Arizona
Nashville 1, Vancouver 0
Monday: Vancouver 0, Minnesota 0
Tuesday: Vancouver vs. Minnesota
Wednesday: Minnesota vs. Vancouver
X-Friday: Minnesota vs. Vancouver
X-Sunday: Vancouver vs. Minnesota
ROUND ROBIN
(determines playoff seeding)
Colorado 2, St. Louis 1

Monday: Las Vegas 5, Dallas 3
Tuesday: Dallas vs. Colorado
Wednesday: St. Louis vs. Las Vegas
Saturday: Colorado vs. Las Vegas
X-Sunday: Las Vegas vs. Dallas

Monday
Penguins 3, Canadiens 1
Montreal 0, Pittsburgh 1
Pittsburgh 1, OT 2-3

First Period—1, Pittsburgh, Crosby 2 (Sheary, Guentzel), 4:25.
Second Period—2, Pittsburgh, Zucker 1 (Dumoulin, Sheary), 14:41. 3, Montreal, Koskinen 2 (Petty, Lohkonen), 17:50. 4, Pittsburgh, Guentzel 1 (Rust), 19:50 (en).
Shots on Goal—Montreal 7-6-14-27 (27-35).
Power-play opportunities—Montreal 0 of 0; Pittsburgh 0 of 1.
Goals—Montreal, Price 1-0-0 (37 shots-38 saves), Pittsburgh, Murray 0-1 (27-26).
T-2:36.

Lightning 3, Capitals 2 (SO)

Washington 0 2 0 0-2
Tampa Bay 1 1 0 1-3
Monday: Tampa Bay won shootout 2-1
First Period—1, Tampa Bay, Kucherov 1 (Point), 12:53.
Second Period—2, Tampa Bay, Stephens 1 (Maroon, McDonagh), 7:48. 3, Washington, Panik 1 (Gudas, Eller), 17:24. 4, Washington, Kuznetsov 1 (Gadstrom, Orlov), 19:32 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Washington 0, Tampa Bay 0 (0).
Shots on Goal—Washington 7-12-11-33. Tampa Bay 9-8-8-3-28.
Power-play opportunities—Washington 0 of 0; Tampa Bay 0 of 0.
T-2:42.

Golden Knights 5, Stars 3

Dallas 0 3 0-3
Vegas 1 0 1 4-5
First Period—1, Vegas, Stephenson 1 (Stuart, Karlsson), 1:04.
Second Period—2, Dallas, Pavelski 1 (Janmark, Hellebuyck), 7:50. 3, Dallas, Oleskiak 1 (Comeau, Hellekari), 8:32. 4, Dallas, Perry 1 (Hellekari, Hintz), 12:42 (pp).
Third Period—5, Vegas, Stone 1 (Cousins, Whitecloud), 9:46. 6, Vegas, Schmidt 1 (Smith), 11:15. 7, Vegas, Carrier 1 (Schmidt, Reeves), 14:47. 8, Vegas, Karlsson 1 (Cousins), 19:39.
Shots on Goal—Dallas 8-13-6-27. Vegas 7-10-13-33.
Power-play opportunities—Dallas 1 of 1; Vegas 0 of 2.
T-2:23.

Jets 3, Flames 2

Winnipeg 1 1 1 1-3
Calgary 0 0 2 2-3
First Period—1, Winnipeg, Harkin 1 (Roslovic, Lowry), 7:18.
Second Period—2, Winnipeg, Lowry 1 (Morrissey, Roslovic), 5:43. 3, Calgary, Lindholm 1, 11:29. 4, Calgary, Bennett 1 (Harkin, Lucic), 17:29.
Third Period—5, Winnipeg, Ehlers 1 (Pionk, Connor), 10:24 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Winnipeg 9-11-6-26. Calgary 10-11-9-30.
Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg 1 of 6; Calgary 0 of 6.
Goals—Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 1-1-0 (39 shots-38 saves), Calgary, Talbot 1-1-0 (26-23).
T-2:26.

Hurricanes 4, Rangers 1

N.Y. Rangers 1 0 0-1
Carolina 3 1 2 1-4
First Period—1, Carolina, Svechnikov 1 (Aho, Vatanen), 4:32. 2, N.Y. Rangers, Panarin 1 (Strome, DeAngelis), 12:05 (pp).
Second Period—3, Carolina, Svechnikov 2 (Aho, Vatanen), 1:11 (pp), 4, Carolina, Martinook 1 (Seenie, McGinn), 2:22.
Third Period—5, Carolina, Svechnikov 3 (Aho), 14:02.
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Rangers 10-7-24. Carolina 6-12-16-34.
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Rangers 1 of 4; Carolina 1 of 4.
Goals—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 0-2-0 (34 shots-38 saves), Carolina, Mrazek 2-0-0 (24-23).
T-2:28.

Oilers 6, Blackhawks 3

Chicago 1 2 0 0-3
Edmonton 2 2 2-4
First Period—1, Edmonton, McDavid 2 (Nurse, Nugent-Hopkins), 0:19. 2, Edmonton, McDavid 3 (Nugent-Hopkins, Bear), 4:05. 3, Chicago, Kane 1 (Koekoek, DeBrincat), 9:06.
Second Period—4, Edmonton, Ennis 1, 14:4. 5, Chicago, Koekoek 1 (Dach, DeBrincat), 4:22. 6, Chicago, Maatta 1 (Dach, Kane), 15:13. 7, Edmonton, McDavid 4 (Chasson, Lundqvist), 17:10.
Third Period—8, Edmonton, Neal 2, 7:25. 9, Edmonton, Chasson 1, 8:09. 10, Edmonton 12-9-35.
Power-play opportunities—Chicago 0 of 4; Edmonton 1 of 5.
Goals—Chicago, Crawford 1-1-0 (35 shots-38 saves), Edmonton, Koskinen 1-0-0 (26-23).
T-2:25.

Roundup

Oilers, McDavid even up series with Blackhawks

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — Connor McDavid recorded his first playoff hat trick to lead Edmonton to a 6-5 win over Chicago, tying their best-of-five qualifying series at one game apiece.

McDavid scored 19 seconds into the game, then off an electrifying solo rush just past the four-minute mark, and once more on the power play late in the second period.

"Connor led the way, especially early (and) set tone for us, gave us a spark. That's exactly what we needed and everybody followed," Oilers forward Tyler Ennis.

Olli Maatta, Patrick Kane and defenseman Slater Koekoek scored for the Blackhawks.

Chicago's top line of Jonathan Toews, Brandon Saad, and Dominik Kubalik, which torched the Oilers for 10 points in Saturday's win, were held in check.

Hurricanes 4, Rangers 1: Carolina's Andrei Svechnikov scored three times for the first postseason hat trick in franchise history and the Hurricanes beat New York for a 2-0 lead in the Stanley Cup qualifier series in Toronto.

The 20-year-old Svechnikov beat Henrik Lundqvist for the first goal less than 5 minutes into the game. He followed with a power-play one-timer early in the second off a feed from Sami Vatanen, then buried a third at 14:02 of the third. Guentzel sealed the win with an empty-net goal.

all three of Svechnikov's goals.

Jordan Martinook also scored for Carolina. Petr Mrazek added 23 saves.

Jets 3, Flames 2: Nikolaj Ehlers scored a power-play goal in the third period, lifting Winnipeg past Calgary as the teams drew even in their qualifying round in Edmonton. Adam Lowry led the Jets with a goal and an assist in Game 2 of the best-of-five series. Rookie Jansen Harkins also scored for Winnipeg and Jack Roslovic contributed a pair of assists.

Golden Knights 5, Stars 3: Will Carrier scored the tiebreaker with 5:12 left, Robin Lehner had 24 saves and Vegas beat Dallas in Western Conference round-robin play in Edmonton.

Carrier backhanded a rebounded shot through his own legs and past Stars goaltender Ben Bishop after the Golden Knights rallied from a 3-1, third-period deficit. Vegas scored three times in 5:02 and added an empty-netter with 21 seconds left.

Penguins 3, Canadiens 1: Sidney Crosby, Jason Zucker and Jake Guentzel scored for Pittsburgh in a win over Montreal, tying the best-of-five qualifying series in Toronto to a one game apiece. Crosby beat Montreal's Carey Price early in the first period and Zucker scored with about five minutes left in the third. Guentzel sealed the win with an empty-net goal.

SPORTS



Huge blow to Braves
Soroka suffers season-ending
Achilles injury » **MLB, Page 20**

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP



Brooks Koepka hits from the fairway during the third round of the FedEx St. Jude Invitational Saturday in Memphis, Tenn. Koepka, who has been rehabbing his injured left knee, was tied for the lead until hitting into the water on the final hole.

MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Health, Hagen and history

Koepka has a chance at major three-peat achieved by few golfers

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

Peter Thomson might have been up to his old tricks. He once described the Americans as the “greatest collection of golfers in the world” right before he captained an International team that annihilated the U.S. in the 1998 Presidents Cup.

So what to make of his prediction at Carnoustie nine years later? Tiger Woods was going for a third consecutive British Open title, a feat accomplished only six times in major championship history, most recently by Thomson in 1956.

“He has a chance to win eight in a row,” Thomson replied.

A FEAT FOR THE ELITE

Only six golfers have won the same major championship in three consecutive years:

Bob Ferguson, British Open (1880-82)
Jamie Anderson, British Open (1877-79)
Young Tom Morris, British Open (1868-70)
Willie Anderson, U.S. Open (1903-05)
Walter Hagen, PGA Championship (1924-27)
Peter Thomson, British Open (1954-56)

SOURCE: Associated Press

It wasn't clear if Thomson was joking or trying to create even more attention for Woods. By the end of the week, it was a moot point as Woods tied for 12th. Woods won majors at a faster clip than anyone. He remains the only player to win multiple majors in consecutive years. But he never won the same major three successive times.

Neither did Jack Nicklaus. The one chance he had, Nicklaus missed the cut going for a third straight Masters. Tom Watson shared the 54-hole lead at St. Andrews in 1984 in his bid for a third consecutive British Open. He closed with 73 and finished two shots behind Seve Ballesteros.

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SEE HISTORY ON PAGE 19

Lakers top Jazz, clinch top seed in West » NBA, Page 22

